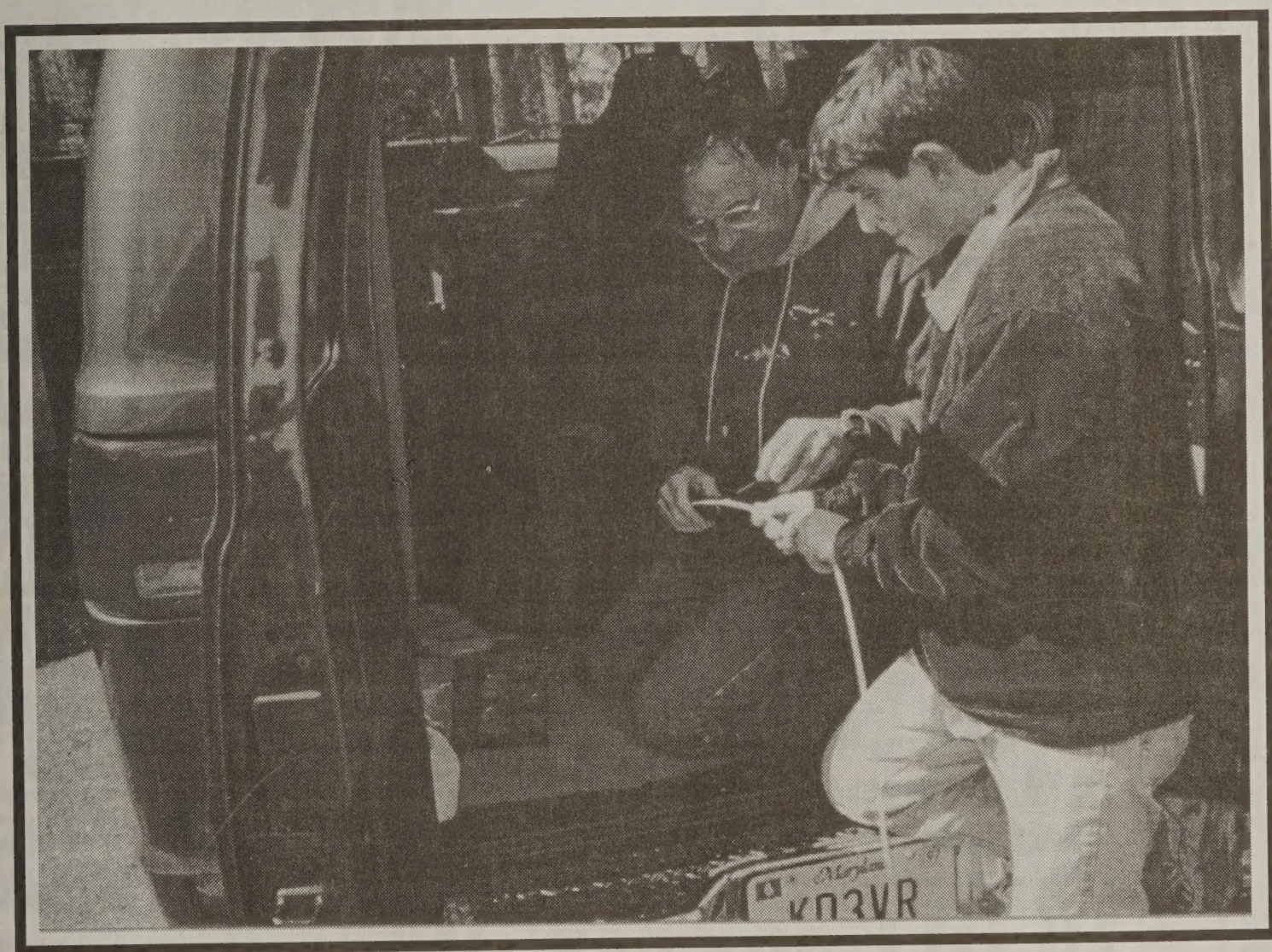




The Official Journal of the Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.

MAY 1997



Rules and Regs • ARRL Report • VE Exams Schedule
Public Service Report • DX Column • Regional Hamfests
Club Reports • Shack Sales • Much More!



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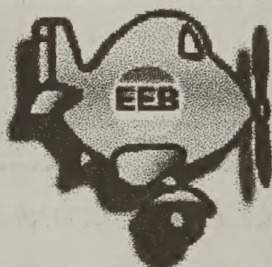
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Regional Hamfests and Other Events

May 3	Blue Ridge ARS, Greenville, SC	864-476-2609
May 4	Metro 70cm Network, Yonkers, NY	914-969-1053
May 4	Warminster ARC, Wrightstown, PA	215-675-9165
May 9-10	HOSSTRADERS, Rochester, NH	207-469-3492
May 10	Statesboro ARS, Statesboro, GA	912-653-4939
May 16-18	Dayton HamVention, Dayton, OH	937-276-6930
May 25	Memorial Day Hamfest, West Friendship, MD	
May 30-June 1	Atlantic Division Convention, Rochester, NY	716-424-7184
May 31	Nashville ARC, Nashville, TN	615-889-7376
June 1	Ole Virginia Hams, Manassas, VA	703-369-2877
June 7	Champlain Valley ARC, Plattsburgh, NY	518-563-6851
June 8	Long Island Mobile ARC, Bethpage, NY	516-796-2366
June 8	Goodyear ARC, Akron, OH	330-733-5795
June 14	Skyline ARC, Cortland, NY	607-753-0597
June 14	Raritan Valley RC, Dunellen, NJ	908-722-9045
June 15	Frederick ARC, Frederick, MD	301-865-0865
June 21	Hanover Area Hamming Assn., Pleasant Hill, PA	410-239-8451
June 21-22	Georgia State Convention, Atlanta, GA	770-493-8438
June 28-29	Field Day	
July 5	North Carolina Alligators Group, Salisbury, NC	704-279-3391
July 6	Murgas ARC, Wilkes-Barre, PA	717-288-3532
July 13	Genesee Radio Amateurs, Alexander, NY	716-343-4484
July 13	Mid-Atlantic ARC, Kimberton, PA	610-293-1919
July 26	Western Carolina ARS, Waynesville, NC	704-258-2639
July 27	Baltimore RA Television Society, Timonium, MD	410-467-4634
August 2	High Point ARC, High Point, NC	910-887-3039
August 3	Shenandoah Valley ARC, Berryville, VA	
August 9	Tompkins County ARC, Dryden, NY	607-844-4302
August 16	Roanoke Valley ARC, Roanoke, VA	540-890-6782
August 16-17	York ARC/Keystone VHF Club, York, PA	717-751-9675
August 23	Pioneer Radio Operators Society, Chaffee, NY	716-675-2071
August 24	Yonkers ARC, Yonkers, NY	914-969-6548



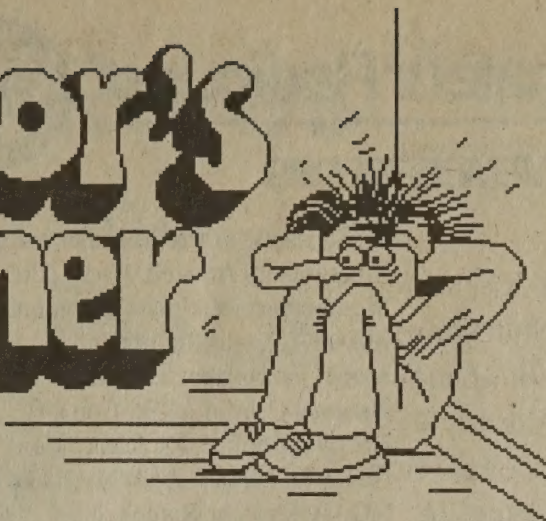
(Photo by Murray Green, K3BEQ)

On The Cover

FAR Ham of the Month for June 1996, Joe Nunemaker (KD3VR), teaches the fine art of soldering to new General class licensee and youngest member of the Green Mountain Repeater Association, Samson (N3TJU), age 14.

Editor's Corner

By John Queen
KAØSEY



Is technology snuffing out amateur radio? Consider this...

A decade ago, ham radio operators had the nearly exclusive claim of being able to make telephone calls from their cars via 2 meter autopatch. Today, cellular telephones dominate the landscape. The autopatch is obviously still used, but the convenience factor of the cell phone, coupled with the ability to place calls to virtually any destination, makes for a strong argument.

Of course, aside from the cost of a 2 meter radio and annual repeater membership fees, the autopatch is free, while the cell phone is not. Nonetheless, mobile telephone communications is no longer a privilege held primarily by ham radio operators.

Twenty years ago, ham radio operators could boast to friends and family that they could send messages to people half a world away over their computer via packet, AMTOR, RTTY, etc.

Today, if a ham touted that accomplishment, the standard response would be "so what?". With the advent of the Internet, millions of messages are transmitted and received throughout the world every day. In fact, with the advent of Internet Phone, you can talk to someone thousands of miles away in real-time using digital technologies - all from the comfort of your keyboard.

So what "edge" does amateur radio have over the rest of the world? I'd like to think that the technologies used in the amateur radio community have been forerunners to modern communications.

Amateur radio operators have historically led the rest of the world in pioneering new ways to communicate. In a sense, we are the pioneers of tomorrow's communication technologies.

But there's something more to ham radio than being communication pioneers. Ham radio is a state of mind. It's an emotion.

It's that excitement which brews inside each and every one of us when we make contact with a total stranger 8,000 miles away. It's the camaraderie of a 2 meter rag chew on a slow morning commute. It's the thrill of finding that QSO card in your mailbox postmarked four months ago from a country that has only a handful of amateur radio operators. It's the personal satisfaction of providing a vital communication link during an emergency situation.

No, technology will never snuff out ham radio. For the spirit of amateur radio is rooted deep within us all. And that's something that no technology, nor convenience, nor cost could ever replace...

73's, de KAØSEY, John



MEMBER CLUBS

Adams County Amateur Radio Society
Alexandria Radio Club
Amateur Radio Research and Develop. Corp.
AMSAT - Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation
Anne Arundel Radio Club
Antietam Radio Association, Inc.
ARINC Amateur Radio Club
Arlington Amateur Radio Club
Baltimore Amateur Radio Club
Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society
Capital City Amateur Radio Society
Capital Hill Amateur Radio Society
Carroll County Amateur Radio Club
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Chaverim of the Greater Washington Area
Columbia Amateur Radio Association
Culpeper Amateur Radio Association
D-MARC - Digital Mid-Atlantic Radio Council
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Explorer Post #80- Amateur Radio
Fauquier Amateur Radio Association
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Frederick Amateur Repeater Group
Goddard Amateur Radio Club
Green Mountain Repeater Association
Hanover Area Hamming Association
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Maryland FM Association
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Mercury Amateur Radio Assn., NE Area
Metropolitan Communications Network
Metrovision Amateur TV Club

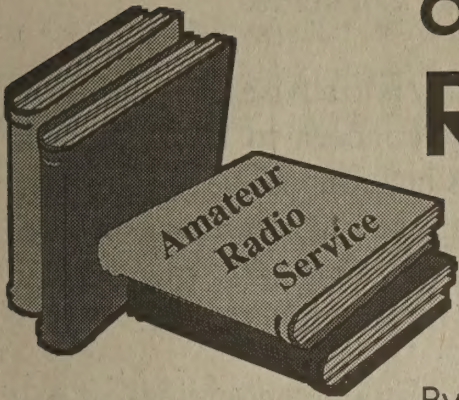
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Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club
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National Capitol DX Association
Naval Research Laboratory Radio Club
NOAA Amateur Radio Club
North Point FM Association
Northern Virginia FM Association
Northern Virginia Radio Club
Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club
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St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association
Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club
Southern Maryland Amateur Radio Club
Southern Patuxent Amateur Radio Club
Stafford Amateur Radio Assn.
Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club
Summit Amateur Radio Association
Tri-County Amateur Radio Club
T-MARC, Middle Atlantic Repeater Council
Vienna Wireless Society
Voice of America Amateur Radio Club
Waldorf Repeater Support Group
Washington Adventist Amateur Radio Assn.
Washington Area Young Ladies ARC
Woodbridge Wireless, Inc.

NEXT FOUNDATION MEETING

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. meets at 8: p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. **Visitors are always welcome!** The next meeting will be held May 14th at the Lee Center, Alexandria, Virginia. Take Capitol Beltway to Exit 1 (US 1 North). North to the second traffic light, left on Gibbon Street to Fayette. Left on Fayette to dead end at Lee Center Parking Lot. The meeting is conducted in the conference room near the main office of the center.

**Talk-in on
146.55**

Rules and Regs



By Jack Kelleher
W4ZC

PLMRS FREQUENCY COORDINATION BECOMES COMPETITIVE (Tnx ARN #1020, 28 Feb 97)

On February 20th, the FCC adopted rules that set forth a consolidation plan for the Private Land Mobile Radio Services below 800 MHz. The plan also addresses other issues raised in conjunction with consolidation including a discussion of who will provide for frequency coordination of the various services. It is the Commission's contention that adding the element of competition will eventually provide the best coordination services at the lowest possible cost to the spectrum's end users. In fact, throughout this proceeding, the Commission says that it has held a broad objective of promoting a more efficient use of the existing Private Land Mobile Radio spectrum allocation to satisfy future communications requirements.

From an operational standpoint, what the FCC wants to eventually see several organizations providing coordination of the same pool of frequencies in the same geographic areas to the same potential user base. Previously, frequency coordinators had sole control over the frequencies within their pool.

In addition to consolidating the Private Land Mobile Radio services, the Commission has also established a method for the users of this service

to implement highly efficient trunked systems in the bands below 800 MHz. It also adopts a plan for disposing of the low power "offset" channels in the 450-470 MHz band.

No mention is made of coordination in the Amateur Radio Service as it would be beyond the scope of the rule making. But this FCC move to commercialize the coordination process comes at a time when hams have been trying to get recognition for a single point of contact on repeater coordination issues.

It is interesting to note that the proposal to commercialize the coordination process in Private Land Mobile Radio now, is not unlike a ham radio related decision issued by former FCC Special Services Branch Chief Raymond A. Kowalski over a decade ago. It too indirectly stated that competitive coordinators could exist and that they could coordinate the same spectrum in the same geographic area. That regulatory interpretation has been the main reason that ham radio coordinators have banded together to ask for a single point of contact to the FCC. The question now becomes one of will the FCC buy the concept of a single point of contact for ham radio frequency coordination at the same time that they are telling Private Land Mobile Radio service users that many points are defiantly OK.

Titled Report and Order on FCC Docket 97-61, the full text is available for viewing on the FCC's world wide web site. Go to: <http://www.fcc.gov> and use the provided search engine to find document nrwl117014.txt.

NO MORE DATE OF BIRTH

Effective February 21 the FCC no longer will distribute date of birth information as part of its Amateur Radio license data. No reason has been given for the change, but the field has been physically removed from the data stream. At least some call sign look up systems could be affected by this change. (TNX ARN 1021, 070397)

Continued next page

LITTLE LEO'S LOSE ROUND ONE

Proposals by the low Earth orbiting satellite industry — so-called "Little LEOs" — to share spectrum with Amateur Radio at 146, 220 and 440 MHz have hit a small snag. But its not a big enough obstacle to stop them.

The band sharing recommendations by the Little LEO industry were among those submitted last week to the FCC advisory committee that's planning for WRC 97. But the Little LEO proposals are not scheduled for inclusion in the committee's recommendations. This is because the working group involved did not agree to do so.

As previously reported, the various informal working groups that have been sorting out numerous proposals for possible consideration at World Radiocommunication Conference 97. They offered their reports March 5th to the FCC's WRC 97 Industry Advisory Committee. The report of Informal Working Group 2A, wrangled with proposals involving mobile satellite services. The version agreed on includes the Little LEO's controversial "flexible allocation" plan to share spectrum with amateurs and others. But its not in the text of the draft proposal. Rather it is buried as an annex to the report. An annex that also includes the objections raised by other participants for consideration and disposition at a higher level.

What this means is that the Little LEO industry has basically lost a part of round one. It also means that they will probably be spending lots of dollars in lobbying law makers to put them back in the running. This is because billions of dollars in long term corporate profits are hanging in the balance of this politically charged high risk investment by the supporters of the Little LEO birds. In other words, you can be 100% certain that they are NOT going to roll over, play dead and walk away. (Tnx ARN, ARRL, others)

FCC STRENGTHENS LOCAL GOVERNMENT TIES

Meantime, the FCC may be getting ready to

hand over some of its regulatory authority to local governments. Chairman Reed Hundt has announced the formation of a new Local and State Government Advisory Committee.

Their responsibility is to advise the commission on matters of their concern to their political constituencies. This includes public right of way, removal of barriers to entry into various aspects of communications and oversight of the site selection of any type of radio transmitting facility.

The committee will be made up of elected officials of state and local governments or their representatives and one member from the FCC. There will be fifteen members in all. It is unknown if any representative of the nations Amateur Radio community will get to serve on it. (From ARRL Ltr V16, N10, 070397)

CONGRESS TO FCC: TAKE TV FOR EMERGENCY RADIO (Tnx ARN #1023)

Late word that 46 members of the U.S. House of Representatives have asked the FCC to reallocate four television channels to emergency service operations. The request comes in a letter to commission Chairman Reed Hundt, on Wednesday, March 12th. In it, the lawmakers say that they want to see increased spectrum for police, fire, crisis management and rescue operations. The request is bi-partisan. It comes from 24 Republicans and 22 Democrats who want the FCC to reallocate four current UHF television channels between 60 and 69 for exclusive use by public safety officials.

The broadcasting industry has routinely opposed similar offers. Most recently broadcasters said no to proposals made by President Bill Clinton and by Senate Commerce Committee chairman John McCain, of Arizona for a similar service. But Representative Curt Weldon, of Pennsylvania says the new spectrum is badly needed. Weldon is a former volunteer firefighter and is currently co-chairman of the Congressional Fire Services

Continued next page

Caucus. He says that allocating additional frequencies would reduce congestion and help agencies better communicate with one another.

So the big question, Will the commission act on this congressional mandate? As we go to air, Chairman Hundt has not yet publicly responded to this reallocation request.

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DAY IS MAY 17 (Tnx ARRL Ltr vol 16 #13, 27 Mar.)

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council has chosen "Telecommunication In The Service Of Humanitarian Assistance" as the theme for 1997 World Telecommunication Day (WTD-97), a theme lying at the very heart of Amateur Radio. World Telecommunication Day takes place each year on the anniversary of the creation of the ITU, May 17, 1865.

ARRL International Affairs Vice President and IARU Secretary Larry Price, W4RA, and Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, will be in Geneva for other meetings and are planning to represent ARRL and IARU in person. It is further anticipated that ARRL will arrange a schedule with the Geneva special event station to convey a commemorative message from ARRL/IARU. (IARU is a Sector Member of the ITU. ARRL is the International Secretariat of the IARU). US groups involved in emergency communication programs such as ARES and RACES would also be invited to contact and exchange messages with the station.

SPREAD SPECTRUM NPRM (Tnx ARN 1022 3/14; FCC, ARRL)

The FCC is proposing to liberalize the use of spread spectrum modulation techniques in Amateur Radio, but not all hams are happy with what the regulatory agency has in mind.

The matter goes back to December 1995 when the ARRL petitioned the FCC to relax its rules to give Amateur Radio more opportunities to

contribute to the development of spread spectrum techniques. Specifically, the League asked to have the FCC relax restrictions on spreading sequences. It also asked for greater flexibility in spreading modulation. In response, the FCC now has proposed to drop rules restricting amateur stations to transmitting only frequency hopping and direct sequencing spreading techniques. As requested by the League, the FCC also has proposed to require automatic power control for spread spectrum transmitters, to ensure use of the minimum power level needed to carry out communication.

In spread spectrum the energy of the transmitted signal is distributed among several synchronized frequencies within a band and reassembled at the receiving end. This reduces power density and duration of a transmission on a particular frequency and lets spread spectrum almost invisibly share the same spectrum with users of other, narrowband modes.

And that's exactly why some hams oppose the ARRL and the digital community in their quest for increased use of spreading modulation technology. The weak signal community in particular fears that widespread use of spread spectrum will raise the ambient noise floor of the various bands. They say that even a hundredth of a decibel increase in band noise is intolerable because it will bury already weak signals in even more noise. Weak signal operators are very open in their dissatisfaction with expanding the use of spread spectrum. They are using their open remailer on the internet to orchestrate mass opposition to the proposed rule making change.

But in releasing the proposed regulatory change the said the rule amendments would increase spectrum efficiency and allow amateur operators to contribute to technological advancement. This makes it sound like a shoe in for prompt approval.

Either way, comments on WT Docket 97-12 are due May 5th, with reply comments due no later than June 5th. After that it will be a matter of wait and see.



American Radio Relay League Report

By John Swafford,
W4HU

The purpose of the ARRL Letter is to provide the essential news of interest to active, organizationally minded radio amateurs faster than it can be disseminated by our official Journal, QST. We strive to be fast, accurate and readable in our reporting. Material from The ARRL Letter may be reproduced in whole or in part, in any form, including photo reproduction and electronic data banks, provided that credit is given to The ARRL Letter and The American Radio Relay League.

PHASE 3D LAUNCH PUT OFF UNTIL SEPTEMBER

Modifications to the Ariane 5 rocket's electrical systems and software will mean another costly delay for the Phase 3D Amateur Radio satellite. The European Space Agency (ESA) announced March 24, that the Ariane 502 which will carry Phase 3D aloft from Kourou, French Guyana, has been rescheduled for a mid-September launch. ESA said the schedule change was in response to recommendations of a board of inquiry that looked into the causes for the failure of the Ariane 501 launch last year.

"This additional action, which does not call into question the design of the launcher nor its flight readiness, is intended to improve its robustness, increase the operational margins and allow for degraded operating modes," ESA press release said.

RADIO AMATEUR CALLBOOK GOES CD- ROM ONLY

It's the end of an era for The Radio Amateur Callbook. Publisher Bob Hughes announced March 17 in a letter to Callbook distributors that the company is phasing out its telephone-book-size paper North American and International editions in favor of its CD-ROM product. The 1997 Callbook—the 75th edition—will be the last hard-copy version available. The letter cited "rising costs and increasing demand for electronic publishing" as the reasons for the company's decision to concentrate on the CD-ROM version, which includes worldwide listings. North American and International edition of the paper Callbook, a staple for years in many active ham shacks, sell for around \$40, while the CD-ROM sells for around \$50. The Callbook began publishing in 1920. Radio Amateur Callbook is produced by Watson-Guyptill Publications.

The spring CD-ROM edition of the Callbook will be available at the Dayton Hamfest, Hughes told distributors.

According to Hughes' letter, the company has "a limited supply of the printed edition" and anticipates that demand will be great once the word gets out. The last printed version will carry a label indicating "Last Edition of the Callbook." (For orders, call 800-278-8477; e-mail 103424.2142@compuserve.com.)

LEAGUE PETITIONS FOR RACES FLEXIBILITY

The ARRL is seeking a change in FCC rules to relax regulations regarding the Amateur Radio Service and the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES). The League wants the FCC to allow hams actively supporting emergency or disaster communication or involved in drills and tests to communicate "between and among" RACES stations and those stations registered with civil defense organizations operating under RACES. The League also wants the FCC to relax time limitations on RACES emergency drills and

tests. This would permit stations operating under RACES (organized under the Federal Emergency Management Agency and operating under local civil defense agencies) to communicate, as necessary during emergencies, tests and drills, with stations operating under the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, or ARES (Begun by the ARRL in 1935) or with other non-ARES or non-RACES and ARES operate independently of each other, although some hams participate in both organizations.

Relaxing the rules "would permit intercommunication with other amateurs active in emergency communications, and enable a form of 'mutual aid' in the Amateur Service," The League said in its filing. "It is time that the Commission permit, but not require, communications between RACES participants and non-RACES amateurs during emergencies or emergency drills and preparedness exercises." The League said the Commission has an opportunity to eliminate a restriction that "arguably should never have been enacted in the first place," and that has "outlived whatever utility it may ever have had."

The League also seeks to increase the time limit on RACES training drills and tests from one hour per week to up to five hours per week.

STS-83 HAMS LOOKING FORWARD TO SAREX QSOs

At a NASA press conference on March 18, several of the astronauts scheduled for shuttle mission STS-83 talked about their planned Amateur Radio activities. "It would be my privilege to do a number of SAREX contacts," said Jim Halsell, KC5RNI, the mission commander. Eighteen schools are on the list for SAREX contacts during the mission, set to launch April 3. Janice Voss, KC5BTJ, said she got her license because she's in the shuttle program "I think the SAREX program is a great chance to connect the flights with people on the ground," she said. "I wanted to make sure, that, at least when I flew, there would be a chance for SAREX to fly because

I would know that there was one ham radio operator on board."

Calling himself a strong supporter of SAREX, Donald Thomas, KC5FVF, lauded the objectives of the SAREX program to educate youngsters and get them involved in math and science. "It's just amazing how the kids get so excited and enthused about the passes we have." During the average eight to ten-minute pass, Thomas said, the kids "just fire questions off to us, and you can just hear and feel the enthusiasm they have." Thomas said he's glad to share in their excitement with SAREX.—Philip Chien, KC4YER.

HAMS RISE AGAIN TO PUBLIC SERVICE CHALLENGE AS STORMS SWEEP SEVERAL STATES

Hams pitched in to volunteer as storms and floods hit several states in recent days. As severe storms were spotted across parts of the southern US, hams activated Skywarn nets to aid the National Weather Service in tracking the systems. In Arkansas, several tornadoes ripped through Arkadelphia and elsewhere on March 1. Arkansas SEC Jim Blackmon, KB5IFV—who lives in Arkadelphia but was not seriously affected by the twister—reports that up to 30 hams mobilized within an hour of the tornado that devastated a swath two city blocks wide. (Later reports indicated that as many as 60 hams were pitching in.) Hams accompanied Office of Emergency Services (OES) teams on search-and-rescue missions. Hams accompanied damage assessment teams and Red Cross workers.

NEW, IMPROVED TRANSCEIVERS ON THE HORIZON

Yaesu's new FT-920 HF/6-meter transceiver will be available in early May, the company announced this week. The radio already is being advertised for sale in some overseas ham radio journals. Yaesu says the FT-920 will offer 100 W output on all bands; digital signal processing (DSP)

Continued next page

in all modes (with auto notch and noise reduction); built-in antenna tuner, memory keyer and RS-232C level converter; and MOSFET finals. It's expected to retail for under \$2000.

ICOM has announced the IC-706MkII, with several improvements and additions to the popular tiny HF/VHF transceiver at the same price as the original IC-706. The MkII will offer slots for two optional filters, a "sub" deal (to tune the second VFO or for RIT), 20 W output on 2 meters, a separate band-change key, crossband split, band-stacking register, and better sensitivity outside the ham bands. The MkII should be available in May, according to ICOM. No retrofits are possible for existing IC-706s.

Ten-Tec has announced the OMNI-VI Plus, an upgraded version of its popular HF transceiver. The OMNI-VI Plus includes DSP noise reduction, low pass auto notch and adjustable CW offset (with tracking sidetone) plus another filter position. A retrofit program is available for current OMNI-VI owners. The OMNI-VI Plus is priced at \$2585.

IN BRIEF:

* New ARRL/VEC fax number: The ARRL/VEC now has a fax number. It's 860-594-0339.

* RS-16 Update: While the RS-16 transponders apparently have not yet been switched on, the beacons on both 2 meters and 70 cm have been active. B.J. Arts, WT0N, reports that during a pass over North America on March 14, RS-16's 10-meter beacons at 29.408 and 29.451 MHz were not heard, while the 70-cm beacons at 435.504 and 435.548 MHz were active. The 435.504-MHz beacon was very strong, while the 435.548 MHz beacon was very weak. Once the transponder has been turned on, the uplink passband on 2 meter will be 145.915 to 145.948 MHz. and the downlink on 10 meters will be 29.415 to 29.448 MHz. — B.J. Arts, WT0N

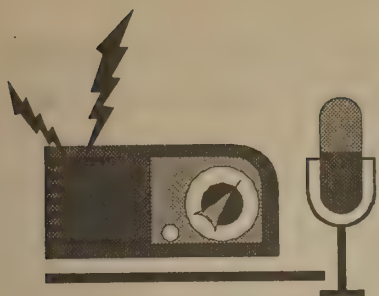
* Alinco cuts prices again; For the second time in less than a year, Alinco has announced price

reductions to dealers. The company cited the favorable dollar-yen exchange rate as one reason behind the price cuts. Alinco notes that it does not set prices at the dealer level, and that street prices can vary from one retailer to another.

* Pre-WW II YL information sought: Wolf Harranth, OE1WHC, honorary curator of the world's largest QST collection in Vienna, Austria, says he's seeking information on female hams operating prior to 1939, as part of a research project into the history of Amateur Radio. "So far we have listed 350+ YLs operating before 1939," he reports. He said he now needs background information (biographical information, old and current QSLs, Photographs, etc) on as many of them as possible. To help, contact Wolf Harranth, e-mail kwp@rai.ping.com.

* ScoutElmer Award: You don't have to be in Scouting to be the recipient of the ScoutElmer Award for helping Scouts to become hams. To qualify, you must be licensed and either be a past or present Scout or adult leader or know a currently active Scout or leader. ScoutElmers agree to respond to help answer ham radio questions from Scouts in their area for at least one month. To sign up, send e-mail to Mel Goldberg at myriad1@ix.netcom.com. Include your name and call sign, e-mail address; locations you can serve; mode(s) of communication, such as e-mail only, e-mail and telephone, telephone and ham class, etc; and your Scouting affiliation and position (past affiliation and date, if applicable), or your Scout or Scout leader sponsor. ScoutElmer Award recipients get a certificate, a Web site logo and the satisfaction that you helped promote Amateur Radio in Scouting. For more information, contact Mel Goldberg, KO6TF, via e-mail or visit the ScoutRadio Web site at <http://www.ocbsa.org/troop319/ham.htm>.

* Improved WM7D call sign database: You can now search WM7D's fcc call sign database for clubs—by name, city, state, and/or ZIP code. Check it out at <http://www.rdatasys.com/~mdowning>.—Mark Downing, WM7D



DX DX DX

By John Kanode,
N4MM

701A-YEMEN OPEAATION NOT GOOD FOR DXCC CREDIT

It was recently announced that the DXpedition to Yemen, 701A will not be acceptable for DXCC credit. The problem is that the license or permission to operate came from the Ministry of Communications, Aden Branch and the main office of the Ministry of Communications, which is located in Sana'a states that Amateur Radio is not permitted in Yemen.

Since it appears that the Ministry of Communications in Sana'a is the one in charge, the DXCC Desk had to make its decision based on that fact. Several other groups have been trying to get licenses to operate in Yemen and have been told that Amateur Radio is not permitted in Yemen at this time.

The Amateur Radio situation in Yemen over the past few years has been very unclear. The country has gone through a civil war and in the distant past, licenses have been issued by both halves of the country. In 1991, the country began a 30 month program to merge all government functions. Since 1994, the MoC is one agency.

It also appears that the two offices of the MoC are not reading from the same set of rules. Of course this is nothing new. It happens in many countries, including here. It is a classic version of "Who is on first". Some DXers think that the DXCC Desk should accept this operation but if you do, you run the high risk of jeopardizing future plans for a permanent Amateur Radio licensing system in Yemen, which I understand is in the process of being developed. The chain of events in Yemen have been very fluid in the past few years and what

was okay several years ago, does not now apply. I am sure the Yemen government will look into this and clear it up. I hope the poor fellow who issued the license is not "hung out to dry". It is their problem and they will have to get it resolved. The last thing we (The ARRL) wants to do is to put Amateur Radio in a bad situation and kill any chance of a permanent licensing system in that country or even worse, have them be negative about Amateur Radio at a future WRC.

UPCOMING DX CONTESTS

ARI Int'l DX Contest	May 3-4, 1997
Danish SSTV Contest	May 3-4, 1997
European CW Sprint	May 17, 1997
CQ WW WPX CW Contest	May 24-25, 1997

TIDBITS

The Chinese Radio Sports Association (CRSA) has announced plans for the third DXpedition to Huag Yan Dao, located in the South China Sea. A multi-national team, lead by BZIOK and JAlBK will set sail from the southern Chinese port city of Guangzhou (aka Caton) on April 28 and expect to start operations on Wednesday, April 30, 1997. They will be using the call sign B57H. The two main goals is to give a QSO to as many DXers as possible and to operate as many different bands to give DXers credits on other bands. They will operate 160 through 6 meters and on CW, SSB, RTTV and Satellite. Four stations will be operating simultaneously.

The Quinte Amateur Radio Club in Belleville, Ontario will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 1997 and will be operating using the special call, CF3L on April 25 and 26 and June 19 to July 3, 1997. Amateurs in Quinte may use the following special prefixes, VE3=CI3 and VA3=XL3. A special 50th anniversary certificate is being offered to amateurs who work 10 Quinte ARC members between June 12 and July 10, 1997. QSO's can be on any band and mode and an endorsement is offered to those who work 5 members with the CI3 or XL3 prefix.

Continued on next page

Only log info is required and applications go to Michael Papper, VE3VMP, 34 Morris Drive, Belleville, Ontario Canada KBP 5B4

The Barry Amateur Radio Society will be active on May 10-17, 1997 as GB100LP from Lavernock Point, South Glamorgan. This is in conjunction with the GB100FI operation. A certificate is available for contacting both stations. QSL to GWØANA.

HB9DX and WQ5H are Silent Keys. Both were very active in DXing over the years.

The DX-News Sheet reports that Kaare, LA2GV was traveling on a Norwegian Antarctic ship and managed to land on Bouvet Island on February 22 for about three hours. He apparently operated on 17 meters and mostly worked Europe. He was not able to announce his operation in advance and for the few who worked him using the call 3Y2GV can QSL to his homecall. The South Sandwich Island Antarctic DX Group is planning their trip to Bouvet for January and February of 1998. The plan is to be active starting on February 5, 1998 for 12 days.

W3GR Special Event Station - June 7 & 8, 1997

To commemorate the contribution of electronics to the success of the Normandy Invasion on D-Day, June 6, 1944, W3GR will be a special event station on June 7 & 8, 1997. The station will operate each day from 10 AM to 5 PM EDST. An original US Navy TBL-13 transmitter will operate CW in the lower portion of the general class segment of the 40 and 20M bands. In addition W3GR will operate SSB on 40/20/15 & 10M, 2M FM, 70 CM ATV and on the RS-12 Satellite. A commemorative certificate will be issued. Send a QSL card with 2-32c stamps to: HEMARC W3GR, c/o Historical Electronics Museum, P. O. Box 746, MS 4015, Baltimore MD 21203.

Special Event Station

Cheese Hollow, Maryland
Cheese Hollow A.R.S. using W3HAM
Commemorating the Inagural Cheese Hollow Cheese Festival!

1300Z May 10 until 0100Z May 11, 1997

SSB 3.920, 7.222, 14.250, 21.350, 28.350, 50.150 Mhz
FM 146.58 Mhz CW 7.130, 14.060 Mhz

Certificate: Send QSO data and Self Addressed Stamped Envelope to:

Page Pyne, WA3EOP
230 North Potomac Street #3
Hagerstown, MD 21740-3813



Amateur Radio Training

John Forrest WZ4A
6111 Burnett St., Alexandria, VA 22310
(703)971-3905

Please send announcements for training classes and club training contacts to WZ4A at the above address. Deadline is the 25th of the 2nd month prior to the *Auto Call* publication date (e.g., 25 December for the February issue).

Club Training Contacts

Alexandria RC	Rich Adamy KA4GFY	(703) 644-3920
Anne Arundel RC	Tony Young WA3YLO	(301) 262-1917
Arlington ARC	Mike Callaham NW3V	(703) 241-5618
Antietam Radio Assn.	Robert Long KD3JK	(301) 824-5132
BRATS (Baltimore)	Joe Chidester W3SHZ	(410) 602-0353
Baltimore ARC	Essex Community College	(410) 780-6854
Dulles ARG	Michael Weber WB8RDN	(703) 450-2304
Fauquier ARC	Neil Spokes AB4YK	(540) 364-3861
Frederick ARC	Hal Silverman W3HWC	(301) 831-7946
Laurel ARC	Pud Reaver W3YD	(301) 498-6293
Mid-Atlantic DX Assn.	Michael Vaia, WB8VBW	(301) 738-3861
Madras	Larry Ziecheck, N3GKZ	(301) 984-6113
MD Mobileers ARC	Bruce Colburn AA3KR	(410) 437-1891
Montgomery ARC	Rocky Jones KC4UXO	(301) 216-5210
Mt. Vernon ARC	John Forrest WZ4A	(703) 971-3905
NASA/Goddard ARC	Vikki Gigante KA3PVS	(301) 249-2609
Ole VA Hams ARC	Charles Dale WA4YGI	(703) 361-3091
Pentagon ARC	David Boyd K9MX	(540) 659-6241
St. Marys Co. ARC	Peter Butt WA3UMY	(301) 862-2214
Shenandoah Val ARC	Guy Black W4PSJ	(540) 722-4952
Southern MD ARC	Vic Curtis WA3YUV	(301) 888-1388
Southern Pax ARC	Dwayne Kincaid WD8OYG	(410) 586-2177
Stafford Adult Ed	Jerry Mullinix AC4HK	(540) 659-3905
Sterling Park ARC	Forrest Snyder N4UTY	(703) 430-4149
Tri-County ARC	John Creel WB3GXW	(301) 572-5124
Vienna Wireless	Paul Wilkins AB4CY	(703) 560-2779
Woodbridge Wireless	Jim Duffey WD4AIR	(703) 491-3170



Volunteer Examiner Cooperative

JOHN FORREST WZ4A
6111 Burnett St.
Alexandria, VA, 22310
(703) 971-3905

* Effective July 1, 1997, the Novice and Technician written exam question pools (Elements 2 and 3a) will change. Five questions on RF safety will be added to each exam. All books and study materials not based on these new question pools will be obsolete after that date. Be sure to use study materials appropriate for the current question pool.

* Effective January 1, 1997, the maximum FCC authorized exam fee is \$6.26.

* Copies of the complete (as of date) 1997 VEC Exam schedule from the *Auto Call* database are available. To obtain a copy, please send a large, self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage to cover 10 letter-size pages along with \$2.00 to cover copying costs to WZ4A at the above address.

1997 Schedule of Examinations

May 1 (Thursday)	Warrenton, VA - Fauquier ARA (ARRL VEC) Walk-In Contact: Neil Spokes AB4YK (540)364-3861
May 4 (Sunday)	Landover, MD - D.C.M. ARC (ARRL VEC) Walk-In Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 (Day) (301)773-2898 (Evening)
	Elkins, WV - (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In Contact: Walter Corley KF8SX (304)637-0506
	Hagerstown, MD - Antietam ARA (Hamfest) (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In. Contact: Leo Patterson KQ8E (304)289-3576 Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674
May 10 (Saturday)	Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510

May 10 (Saturday)	Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083
May 17 (Saturday)	Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM
	Manchester, MD - Hanover Area Hamming Assn (ARRL VEC) Walk-In accepted, Pre-Registration Encouraged Contact: Ed Daves (410)239-8488
	Smithsburg, MD - Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Association (ARRL VEC) Pre- Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In. Contact the club voice BBS: 301-473-4151 box 110 or E-Mail "veteam@aol.com"
May 27 (Tuesday)	Glen Burnie, MD - Maryland Mobileers ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-Ins Space Available Contact: Jerry Gavin NU3D (410)761-1423
May 30 (Friday)	Stafford, VA - Stafford ARA (ARRL VEC) Walk-In Contact: Jim McCloud N4LZJ (540)786-8012
June 1 (Sunday)	Landover, MD - D.C.M. ARC (W5YI VEC) Walk-In Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 (Day) (301)773-2898 (Evening)
June 7 (Saturday)	Manassas, VA - Ole Virginia Hams ARC. Walk-in. Contact: Harry Vorhauer, W4PVA (703) 368-6050
June 10 (Tuesday)	Annapolis, MD - Maryland Mobileers ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-Ins Space Available Contact: Lois Turner KA3VVQ (410)647-4178

Don't forget to bring your license when upgrading!!

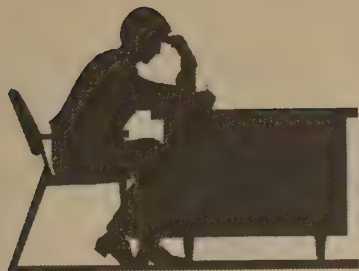
June 14 (Saturday)	Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510
	Cumberland, MD - (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In Contact: Leo Patterson KQ8E (304)289-3576 Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674
	Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083
June 19 (Thursday)	Towson, MD - Baltimore ARC (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-Ins Accepted Contact: Ed Kriston N3WJA (410)HAM-TALK, Mailbox 3952
June 21 (Saturday)	Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM
	Manchester, MD - Hanover Area Hamming Assn (ARRL VEC) Walk-In accepted, Pre-Registration Encouraged Contact: Ed Daves (410)239-8488
	Frederick, MD - Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Association (ARRL VEC) Pre- Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In. Contact the club voice BBS: 301-473-4151 box 110 or E-Mail "veteam@aol.com"
July 6 (Sunday)	Landover, MD - D.C.M. ARC (ARRL VEC) Walk-In Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 (Day) (301)773-2898 (Evening)
	Elkins, WV - (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In Contact: Walter Corley KF8SX (304)637-0506
July 12 (Saturday)	Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510
	Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083

July 13 (Sunday)	Location TBA - Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Association (ARRL VEC) Pre- Registration Desirable, Walk-In 9 - 10 AM during hamfest Contact the club voice BBS: 301-473-4151 box 110 or E-Mail "veteam@aol.com"
July 19 (Sunday)	Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM
	Manchester, MD - Hanover Area Hamming Assn (ARRL VEC) Walk-In accepted, Pre-Registration Encouraged Contact: Ed Daves (410)239-8488
July 26 (Saturday)	Fredericksburg, VA - Fredericksburg VE Team (ARRL VEC) Walk-In Contact: Carolyn Cavanagh AC4SK (540)373-7076
July 27 (Sunday)	Hagerstown, MD - Antietam Radio Assn. (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Recommended Contact: Bob Long KD3JK (301)824-5132 before 9 PM
August 3 (Sunday)	Berryville, VA - Shenandoan Valley ARC (Hamfest) (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In Contact: Leo Patterson KQ8E (304)289-3576 Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674
August 9 (Saturday)	Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510
	Cumberland, MD - (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In Contact: Leo Patterson KQ8E (304)289-3576 Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674
	Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083

Don't forget to bring your license when upgrading!!

August 16 (Saturday)	Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM
	Sterling, VA - Dulles Amateur Radio Group (ARRL VEC) Walk-In Contact: Mike Weber WB8RDN (703)450-2304
August 21 (Thursday)	Towson, MD - Baltimore ARC (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-Ins Accepted Contact: Ed Kriston N3WJA (410)HAM-TALK, Mailbox 3952
August 26 (Tuesday)	Annapolis, MD - Maryland Mobileers ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-Ins Space Available Contact: Lois Turner KA3VVQ (410)647-4178
September 13 (Saturday)	Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510
	Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083
September 20 (Saturday)	Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM
	Manchester, MD - Hanover Area Hamming Assn (ARRL VEC) Walk-In accepted, Pre-Registration Encouraged Contact: Ed Daves (410)239-8488
September 26 (Friday)	Stafford, VA - Stafford ARA (ARRL VEC) Walk-In Contact: Jim McCloud N4LZJ (540)786-8012

Don't forget to bring your license when upgrading!!



Volunteer Examiner Cooperative

EXAM FEES:

- * Check for appropriate exam fee. Fees and modes of payment for individual VECs and exam teams may vary.
- * ARRL VEC exams cost \$6.25
- * Laurel VEC exams are free
- * Mountain VEC exams are free
- * W5YI VEC exams cost \$6.25

BRING TO EXAM:

- * Picture identification
- * Completed FCC form 610 (most VE teams will supply at exam)
- * Original and a copy of current FCC amateur radio license
- * Originals and copies of all active certificates of successful completion of prior exams
- * Exam fee (check or cash depending on VE team)

"GRANDFATHER" CREDIT FOR ELEMENT 3B (GENERAL WRITTEN):

- * If you presently hold a Technician class license which was first issued prior to March 21, 1987, you may be grandfathered for Element 3B (General class written exam) by presenting the original and a copy of the license dated prior to March 21, 1987 to the VE team. It is your responsibility to prove that you are entitled to grandfathering. Do not lose your original license!

RULES FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE FAR VOLUNTEER EXAMINER COOPERATIVE:

1. All submissions must be in writing
2. Date and day of week must be specified for each exam date
3. Point of contact and phone number must be specified
4. Sponsor and location must be specified
5. VEC must be specified
6. Exam dates up to 12 months in advance will be accepted
7. Deadline for submission is 25th of the 2nd month prior to publication date (e.g., January 25 for March issue)

The Maryland FM Association, Inc.
proudly presents its annual

Memorial Day Hamfest

Sunday,

May 25, 1997

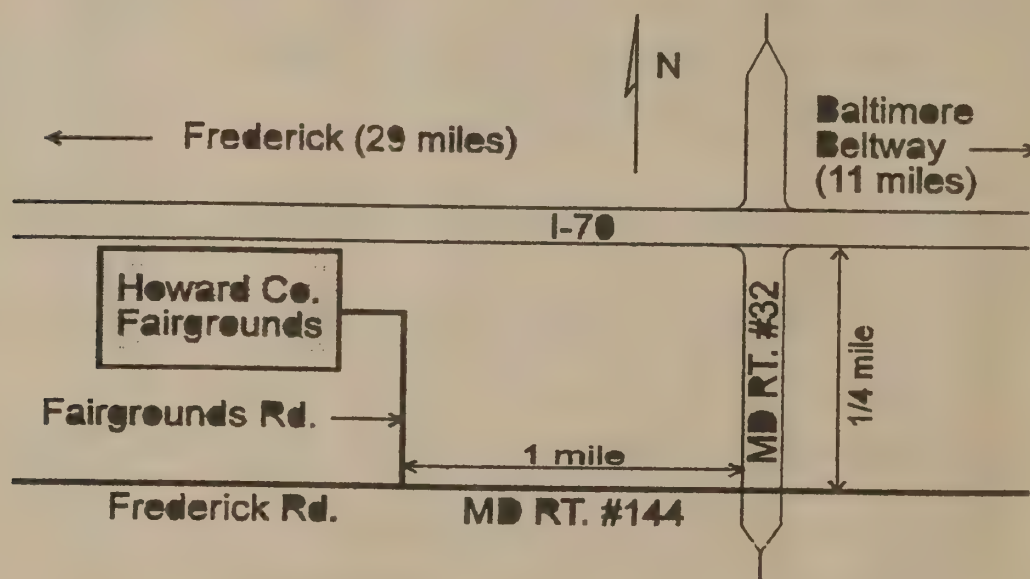
at the Howard County Fair Grounds
Rt. #144, West Friendship, Maryland

Time: 8 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. - premises **MUST** be cleared by 5 p.m.

TALK-IN on WA3DZD/R Repeater (146.16/146.76, 223.16/224.76, and 449.0/444.0).

Plenty of good food and drink will be available.
Supplied by the West Friendship 4H

Sorry, no private sale of food or drink permitted!



DONATION: \$5 Tailgaters - \$5 per space

Table rentals (inside): Paid in advance \$15 At the Hamfest - \$20

Only PAID table reservations accepted. If you haven't paid, you don't have reservations

For advanced **reservations** and information

Maryland F. M. Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 351
Hanover, Md. 21076

Make checks payable to **MFMA, Inc.**

All proceeds will be used for amateur-Radio-related purposes.
Commercial vendors must have proper tax/license certificates available



AMSAT The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation

Local Meetings: Semiannual in Spring and Fall.

Information: AMSAT Area Coordinator: Pat Kilroy, WD8LAQ.

Contact by e-mail: wd8laq@amsat.org

Web site: <http://www.amsat.org>

AMSAT is a non-profit, scientific and educational organization incorporated in Washington, D.C. with headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. Everyone is welcome to join AMSAT and to become actively involved in the support and operation of the amateur space program. If you would like additional information then you may contact your AMSAT Area Coordinator or write to AMSAT-NA at: AMSAT Headquarters, P.O. Box 27, Washington, D.C. 20044. Or you may telephone headquarters at 301-589-6062.

THE GET TOGETHER

The local AMSAT-DC gathering on Sunday afternoon, April 13, represented some new accomplishments. Once again the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center played host to our springtime semiannual meeting by generously offering their Visitor Center auditorium to our community oriented group.

Dr. Sam Guccione, K3BY (sguccion@outland.dtcc.edu) of the AMSAT Delaware group spoke about an upcoming rocket launch and balloon launch. There is still time for anyone to offer support in any number of ways, including collecting the telemetry and sending to them!

Dick Daniel, W4PUJ, gave the latest on the launch preparation of the next generation of amateur satellites, Phase-3D. Dr. Doug Green, N2KBO, presented a lively proposal for a piggyback AMSAT OSCAR on a spent geosynch

satellite.

I gave an update to the Simulated Satellite (SimSat) project. Incidentally, the ARRL folks gave a very nice write up about the SimSat project. Check the April 1997 edition of QST under the Amateur Satellites page if you missed it.

Local activities were planned and lively discussions ensued. The next meeting will be in October. Watch AutoCall magazine, the AMSAT-DC mail list or the SimSat mail list for exact date, time and location.

SIMSAT WEB SITE UPDATE

Speaking of SimSat, please note a correction to the SimSat web site URL from an earlier AutoCall article. The site is at <http://garc.gsfc.nasa.gov/~simsat> now. (The QST article has the correct one.) Sorry to those who reported problems with the old host. Uptime is certain to be at an all time high.

Thank you to the WA3NAN Goddard Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (GARC) and the Goddard Employee Welfare Association (GEWA) for the new home.

SAREX AND NOW MIREX

School groups are now enjoying contacts with the resident astronaut on board the Russian space station Mir. If you thought the backlog for scheduled space shuttle contacts was intimidating then hold on to your cap. EDUCATIONAL CONTACTS ARE MOVING FAST.

The ARRL is accepting applications for MIREX, the Mir International Radio EXperiment. Contact the League to get more information and a blank application.

The secret is that a school cannot make a scheduled contact without an experienced ham or ham club. A ham or ham club cannot do it without a school. So let's all get together to make it happen.

Ask the science teacher at a school of your choice if they would like to team up to contact an astronaut flying over your town. I want to hear about it if you get turned down!

See you at the AMSAT booth in Dayton!

73, Pat WD8LAQ
AMSAT Area Coordinator
Maryland-DC



Anne Arundel Radio Club

Meetings: 8 PM 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Davidsonville Family Recreation Center, Queen Anne Bridge & Wayson Roads off MD Rt. 214 near Annapolis.

On the air: 2030 Thursdays when there is no club meeting on 147.705/105. Tuesdays at 2030 local time on 28.410. Wednesdays at 2000 on 444.400. The Chesapeake Weather & Traffic Net on 147.705/105 at 1100 and 1500 every weekend day and public holiday from April 1 to November 15. MSN (Maryland Slow Net) every evening at 1930 on 3.7170 MHz.

Address: P.O. Box 308, Davidsonville, MD 21035.

Information: Margaret (Holly) Bevan, 410-923-0229.

At the March 20th program meeting Phil Harich/N3UNF gave a comprehensive review of the Chesapeake Bay Chapter of Tenten International. Phil organized this new chapter in November 1996 and there are already 200 members.

Phil also designed the program and the certificates and seals which represent completion of steps in the program. Judging from the interest shown in the presentation, I think he recruited a number of members that evening.

On Saturday May 3rd the Anne Arundel Radio Club is co-sponsoring with the Kent Island Radio Club a hamfest in the VFW Parking Lot on Kent Island. The hours are from 8 AM to 2 PM. It will be open at 6 AM for set up. Take exit 43 off Route 50 and follow the signs. There will be talk-in on 147.105 repeater and on 146.43 simplex. Come on over and enjoy the friendly and comfortable atmosphere.

Two dozen AARC members, coordinated by Club President Bruce Strackbein/KE3PT, furnished communications for the annual BA& Trail Marathon on March 9th. There were two bicycle mobiles and Bob Bruninga/WB4APR did his thing with APRS to pinpoint the location of the runners.

On Easter Sunday John Elliott/N3NCJ, Stan Stanek/N3PPJ and Frank Dunn/KB3BMV, coordinated by Jim Suite/W3AAE, were on hand for the Marlboro Hunt Club Races at Roedown to handle the public address system. Installing the system on Saturday afternoon was quite an ordeal. They had to deal with wind, rain and lightning as the storm passed through. They finally decided to return on Sunday morning to complete the installation. But, everything worked perfectly during the races.

At the clubhouse on March 8th, Bob Israel/WC3I, Charles Tiemeyer/W3RMD and Oscar Ramsey/NV3G gave 24 tests to 12 persons. Eighteen tests were passed with 7 upgrades. Other members of the team were Herb Elkin/NA1VY, Robert Kammer/N3POX and Bettye Tiemeyer/K3VRZ. The next testing session at the clubhouse will be on May 10th.

73, Holly/N3BMB



Reminder - all submissions for

AUTO CALL

are due no later than
the 1st of the month prior to the
month of publication!!



Antietam Radio Association

Meetings: First and Third Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Washington County Regional Airport, Showalter Road, Hagerstown, Maryland.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 52, Hagerstown, MD. 21741

Nets: Tuesday 7 p.m. 146.940 MHz.; Wednesday 7 p.m. 447.975 MHz.; Thursday 7 p.m. 147.090 MHz.

Repeaters: 147.09+ and 146.94 -.

Information: Donnie Sue Mulligan/
KB3AOO (301) 582-2984

Our ARA President resigned on March 4, 1997. Bill Harclerode/N8UKC was a very fine president and he all hated to see him re-sign. He said the reason he resigned is because of his job, he couldn't give his best to the club. We'll miss you, Bill, and are hoping to see you at our meetings, hear you on the radio, and have you in on our activities as much as possible. THANK YOU for all the things you accomplished.

Bob Long/KD3JK is now President and Bob has done a wonderful job taking over for Bill. Bob has been president _ and he hasn't forgotten how. THANK YOU!

The ARA will have training classes for Novice and No-Code Technicians starting on April 19. Bob Long announced on the net that the training will be at the County Administration Office, 100 W. Washington Street, Hagerstown, MD. If you're interested in classes, you may call Bob Long at 301-824-5132. These classes will be held on April 19 (this will be an organizational class), May 10, May 24, June 7, and testing on June 14. There will be videos to watch, and the students will get together and discuss the videos.

Carlo/K3ABH, CharliQ/N3MVR, and I had some training with Gail (Ottinger) Grove, the

Director of emergencies of the Washington County Chapter of the American Red Cross on March 10 and 17. Charlie and I had our first call today. This is a wonderful way to spend your time at home and to help with the Military Messages. Gail is still looking for other volunteers. Can you help? Call Gail (or anyone at 301-7390717 and volunteer).

Here's hoping our Hamfest's FIFTH year goes very well...

Have a good Mother's Day and enjoy Memorial Day.

73, Donnie Sue/KB3AOO



Baltimore Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: Meetings: Twice monthly, 7:30 pm at Towson Presbyterian Church, Chesapeake and Highland Avenues, Towson, Md.. -First Wednesday of the month -business meeting, Third Wednesday of the month - program.

Repeaters: W3FT/RPTR 146.67(-), 224.24 (-) (no PL) and 449.625(-)(PL 107.2) Note: two meter/220 Mhz. repeaters are linked.

Club Net: Every Tuesday night at 8:30 pm on 146.67/224.24.

NTS Net: Daily at 6:30 pm on 146.670/224.240

Club BBS: (410) 252-6238 (min. 2400 baud)

Information: (410) HAMTALK

Greater Baltimore Hamboree & Computerfest/Maryland State ARRL Convention information: (410) HAM-FEST or (800) HAM-FEST.

Club Address: BARC, Inc., P.O. BOX 120, Reisterstown MD 21136

As I write this, we are looking forward to the Greater Baltimore Hamboree & Computerfest in only a few days. Most of the sales areas, including indoor tailgating and Electronic Flea Market are sold out, and should be full. We've pre-sold more

outdoor tailgating spaces than we ever have before, so it should be just a great show, even if we did get eight inches of snow five days beforehand.

Other BARC Activities include a new VE team leader, N3WD, Bill Dobson. Many thanks are due to Bob, WB3HNV and Steve, WA3SOR. Bob was my VE two years ago, and I thank him very much for opening the door to this great hobby for me. Bill is gearing up for the next test session, the third Thursday of April (and every even-numbered month) at Towson Presby Church.

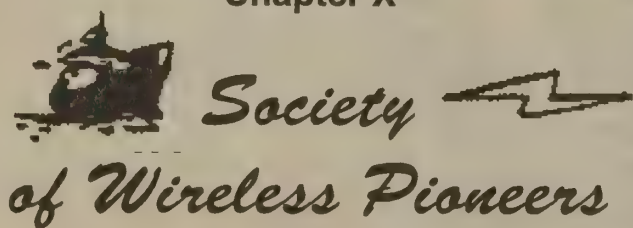
Field day plans are coming along nicely. Final arrangements on a new location are underway. Team leaders have volunteered to lead the charge. Cooks are lined up, and we expect to earn some points. Ed, N3WJA is working hard on bringing a good team together. The April program meeting on April 16 will concentrate on how to operate a radio to make FD contest QSO's.

Fox hunting continues to be a monthly activity. We usually play cooperative hunts, using the 146.67 repeater. All are welcome to participate. Call 410-HAM-TALK to hear a schedule of upcoming activities.

Catch you on the BTN, Baltimore Traffic Net, 6:30 PM, 146.67. NTS training is available on a daily basis here. 73

de N3VEJ, Doug

Chapter X



THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
OF PROFESSIONAL RADIO TELEGRAPHERS

For Information Call
(703) 536-9537



Capital City Amateur Radio Society

Meetings: 3rd Saturday of each month at 1200 hours at the Woodridge Public Library, 18th and Rhode Island Ave, N.E., Washington, D.C. Visitors welcome.

Repeater: W3EIL 144.51/145.11 MHz, open.

Nets: Regular net Wednesday at 2000 hrs, RTTY net Thursdays 2100 hrs, voice portion 2145 hrs, all on 145.110.

Mailing Address: CCARS, 1719 Franklin Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20018-2033.

Information: Steve, W3ETX, (202) 526-1329 or Chester, W3EIL (202) 529-9598.

CCARS members participated in the public service communication net for the St. Patrick Day Parade on Constitution Avenue. Participants were, Cy N3EPH, Colin N3UBI, Willie KE3SA, Paul KQ3X, Bob N3VTL, Sam N3ECI and Jim AA3CD. CCARS will also work communications for the Cherry Blossom Parade.

Sorry to hear that Clem K3UAM was suffering from a bout with ole Mr. Virus, but he won! Sharyn KA3DOF is home from the hospital and making progress to a fine recovery. You may hear her on the air for the CQ WW SSB Contest. Colin N3UBI was home with a slight illness on the 24th. Colin will be erecting a new tower as soon as weather permits.

Ed W3HQ has returned from one of his golf vacations in Florida. Shep WB3KIC has built and erected a new 40 meter dipole, works fine too. Roberta N3RRD and Lydon N3RFH donated their proceeds from their repass at the March club meeting to the club treasury, and a fine repass it was!

The club, CCARS is looking forward to their Annual Atlantic City Trip. Complete trip information will be announced in the very near future.

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The Antietam Radio Association, W3CWC is proud to sponsor the fifth Annual

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Lobby Area - ARA Hospitality Table, FAR Table, ARRL Table, and Prize Area. The Courtside Cafe will be open serving both breakfast and lunch with seating available.

Upstairs - VE Exams will be held at 9 a.m. at no charge by the Mountain VEC. Walk-Ins will be accepted. For more information on the testing session, contact:

Leo Patterson, KQ8E (304) 289-3576

Gay Rembold, W3DFW (301) 724-0674

Outside - Tailgating spaces will be available at \$ 5 per space. All tailgaters must also purchase a general admission ticket.

Prizes - Awarded on an hourly basis beginning at 9 a.m. and ending with the Grand Prize drawings at 2 p.m. Over \$ 2,000 worth of prizes will be given away.

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- Hourly prizes beginning at 10 AM for those present.
You do not have to be present for the major prizes.
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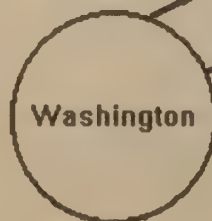
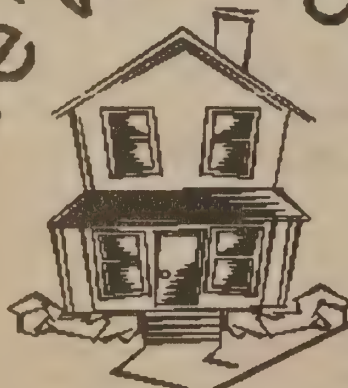
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Joe K3UAL lost his R7 vertical ant. on March 22nd from the wind storm. A guy wire broke an a gust of around 40 knots brought it down. With the weather breaking, this is a good time to check your antennas.

73s Joe K3UAL



Carroll County Amateur Radio Emergency Team & Radio Club

Address: Carroll County Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 2099, Westminster, MD 21158.

Repeaters: 2M: 145.410-, 70cm: 449.875,
6M: 53.090.

BBS: 145.03 & 446.075.

Nets: Tuesdays 8:30 p.m. local CARET Net
145.410-. First Wednesday: 8:00 p.m. local,
Mason Dixon Swap Net 145.410-.

Club Meetings: Business meeting Second
Monday of the month at the EOC in
Westminster. 7:30 p.m. local, talk-in: 145.410-
Program meeting: Last Wednesday of the
month at the EOC in Westminster. 7:30 p.m.
local, talk-in: 145.410-.

A new club year has started. A new year with some new members elected to the board of directors. I thank all of last year's board members for a great year and welcome the new members to a new and exciting year.

I want to thank the Club members for having confidence to elect me for a 4th year as president. The board of directors for this year are:

Club Officers

President	Larry Solarczyk	WX3F
Vice President	Bud Berthold	W2GLN
Secretary	Steve Beckman	N3SB
Treasurer	Walt Hull	N3RKI

Board of Directors

Frank Rodski	K3MTT
Wayne Wilson	N3UN
Tony Krauth	N3MYJ
Jerry Suvall	N3GQK
Bill Mellema	N3WM (Trustee)

Some things this club does well, and we must continue to do them. Some things this club needs to improve on, we must learn to do them. Most activities do not happen during the Monday night meetings. There we talk and prepare to do things that enable this club to learn and have fun. With as many people that we have, and with all the activities that we do, there is still room to do more. There should be no reason for anyone to say that this Club doesn't do anything. All the work should not be by a few, but by all of the Club. The objective is to involve all members. This is an amateur RADIO club.

Up coming events in which you may learn radio communications, provide public awareness, and have fun this year are: MS-Walk (April 12), March of Dimes Walk, Westminster Country Music Festival (July 13), American Lung Association Bike-A-Thon, Walktober Fest, and Simulated Emergency Test (SET). Other activities are: ARRL Field Day (June 28,29), The Mason/Dixon Hamfest (Oct 26), and the November Sweepstakes (Nov 15, 16). From now through November there is a radio operating event practically every month.

In this months issue of the ARRL Field Forum there is an article which we (CARET) are very familiar with. It is about "10 Ways to Optimize Your Effectiveness in Public Service Events."

- 1._Make sure your radio is in top operating condition;
- 2._Don't operate your handheld with it hanging on your belt;
- 3._Regarding antennas, use a telescoping half-wave or a quarter wave antenna on your HT instead of a rubber "dummy load" duck antenna;
- 4._Have charged batteries and spare battery packs;
- 5._Use a headphone or earphone;
- 6._Speak slowly and clearly when transmitting;
- 7._Check out your ability to use simplex;
- 8._Listen to net control and direct all communication through

him/her; 9. If you must leave the radio or the area to which you have been assigned, first seek permission from the net control station; 10. Project a good image to the public around you.

See you at the MS-Walk on Saturday, April 12th.

73 de WX3F



Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 4th Friday of the month at 7:30pm, at the Doctors Community Hospital, 8118 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD (no meeting in December). Enter in the Outpatient Testing entrance across from the Emergency Room entrance behind the main building. Take the elevator to the 5th floor and exit left, the meeting room (DSE Room) is on the right.

Repeater: N3EZD/R 145.230 MHz.

Net: Every Tuesday, 9:30pm, 145.230 MHz repeater.

Mailing Address: Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club, P. O. Box 788, Greenbelt, MD 20768-0788.

Information: Jim Tilton, Pres. - KD3JA, (301) 552-0012.)

CMARC's regular March meeting featured a 2-meter FM radio test session courtesy of Mike Dees/N3EZD. Mike measured the output power, deviation, receiver sensitivity and frequency of club members radios. As it turned out, all radios checked were within normal variations from the specifications. Most significant was discovering which radios we needed to talk close to the mike, and which radios we needed to talk further away from to achieve proper deviation.

At our business meeting we again went through a list of upcoming events that CMARC plans to be involved in. Discussed were the BARC Hamboree

(April 5-6), Christmas in April (April 26), the CROP Walk (May 4), Field Day (June 28-9), the BRATS Hamfest (July 27), the MD/DC QSO Party (mid August), and the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival (Aug 30 - Sept 1). Six or seven club members will sell tickets at the BARC Hamboree on April 5th. Sign up lists were passed around for Christmas in April and the CROP Walk. Discussion of plans for the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival were deferred until we received feedback from the Festival Committee on the our activity proposal.

73 de Jim/KD3JA



Columbia Amateur Radio Association

Club meeting: 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m., at the Bethany United Methodist Church, Bethany Lane, Ellicott City.

Net: 147.135 repeater at 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday except for meeting nights.

Repeaters: 147.735/147.135 (cross-linked to 222.32/223.92); 147.990/147.390 (direct dial 911); 222.32/223.92 (cross-linked to 147.735/147.135); and 443.275/448.275.

Information: Bob Scarburgh, Pres - KC3EV, (410) 465-2421.

Mailing: P.O. Box 911, Columbia, MD 21044

The board presented its annual budget at the February meeting. Time was also given to discussing CARA's direction and activities for the coming year. The March meeting continued the discussion begun at last month's meeting. The club is still looking for a few members to coordinate some of the club functions, including Field Day, the Hamfest, and MD QSO party. The club's picnic will again be held concurrently with Field Day.

Packet's BBS system, according to Bink-W3NNM, is working well. Efforts are being made for TCP/IP access. RACES exercise and operations

will switch to this system using the JNOS operating system. A 440 Mhz 9600 baud radio/terminal has been ordered and, hopefully, will be on-line in April.

The new 147.39 test repeater and controller are operating out of the Abbott House in Columbia. The autopatch and speed dialer are working, as well as the emergency (911) autodialer. The new controller has a lot of new features, and as the tech committee gets them sorted out, members will be brought up to date. The club is also looking for a new home for the repeater as the current location is unsatisfactory - it's unsafe and there have been many outages caused by others disconnecting it or playing with the controls. The club is currently negotiating with Howard County officials for a new site.

The club is organizing the CARA Satellite Group to put together a club satellite station. John-W3GJN has volunteered his house to hold the gear until group members get it working. It is hoped to make it portable so that the two or three members who take programs to the local schools will be able to take it with them. The group also hopes to train enough people to be able to operate it for Field Day.

The CARA web site is moving. Joe-KB2JG, is changing his ISP. The new address, effective April 1st, is - <http://www.clark.net/pub/jrmassi/caranews.html>

Dionne-KA3ZDL, is stepping down as CARA's social committee co-chairman. Dionne served for seven years and contributed to the great success we have had at our various social events. Thank you, Dionne, for all you have done!

Congrats to Georgia-N3QXS, our latest member to upgrade to Extra Class!

Until later,

73's, Jean Williams-KB3AOT



Dulles Amateur Radio Group

On-the-air meeting: Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. on the Dulles Airport repeater.

Repeater: N4FSC, 145.310 (Dulles Airport)

Mailing: Dulles Amateur Radio Group, P.O. Box 5073, Herndon, VA 20172-1964

Information: Mike Weber, WB8RDN, 703-450-2304

The Dulles Amateur Radio Group (DARG) is a family-oriented ham radio club affiliated with the N4FSC repeater in Dulles, VA. Membership is open to all, and the club holds several social and operating events each year. Dues are \$20/yr for your entire family; members have access to the repeater's autopatch, and dues include a subscription or renewal to AutoCall. All area hams are warmly invited to join our information net on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 pm.

DARG sponsored an ARES Seminar presented by officials from the National Capital ARES Council on 13 April in Sterling. Amateurs from other area radio clubs were invited to attend in order to become ARES members. DARG appreciates the efforts of Jeff McWhirt KC4RON (Fairfax County EC), Jeanne Rexroad N4ZGI and Frank Mackey K4EC among others for all their efforts to bring this Seminar to the Dulles area.

DARG members supported the 12 April MS Walkathon. Communications were conducted through the N4FSC Dulles 145.31 repeater.

DARG was the featured club on the NVFMA Talknet's Club Night on 17 March. DARG President Mike Weber WB8RDN briefed the 30 plus participants on the 146.79 repeater on DARG and its family orientation among other topics. This NVFMA Net is held on Monday evenings at 8PM and DARG appreciates the opportunity to inform the Northern Virginia amateur community about DARG.

Upcoming events in DARGland include an Internet Seminar (rescheduled from March), Field Day in June, an August 16 exam session and many others. Stay tuned to the Tuesday 8 PM net on the Dulles Repeater for more details.

73 de Mike, N4PDY



Fauquier Amateur Radio Association

Meeting: 7:30 p.m., Second Thursday of the month except July, August and December. Crestar Bank, Warrenton Ctr, Warrenton VA.

Breakfast: Last Saturday of the month at Western Sizzlin Warrenton VA 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Net: Every Wednesday, 9:00 p.m., 147.165 Mhz NZ4N Repeater.

Packet: KE4YVU FARA7 node 145.070 Mhz with direct connect to FBBS9, FBBS9 Bulletin Board 145.090 Mhz, FARA9 node 145.090 Mhz.

Repeater: NZ4N/R 147.165 Mhz (+.600).

Newsletter: TOROID, Monthly. Deadline for submissions: 20th of the month. Contact Bonnie, n4qpb@mnsinc.com

Information: Chuck Gould, N4YXW 540-347-0112, FARA, PO Box 752, Warrenton VA 20187.

Next meeting: May 8.

FCC EXAM May 1: Crestar Bank, Warrenton, contact Neil AB4YK 540-364-3861.

FARA will participate in communications and car parking direction for the Commonwealth Dressage Association's program on May 26 starting at 7:00 am. The event will last until 4:00 pm. \$1000 will be raised by the participation of about 20 of our club members. Contact Don, WY2V to get details.

The March FARA meeting was held at Crestar Bank Mar 13. The main feature of the March

meeting held in the Crestar Bank basement was a presentation by John Kanode, N4MM, the Roanoke District ARRL Director.

John started with a brief review of the origins of the ARRL and quite quickly got down to discussion of the key problems currently faced by the nation's ham fraternity. The little LEO's, upcoming WRC conferences, licensing changes, and how the amateur community needs to keep an eye on all the regulatory activity related to communications in order to keep amateur radio allocations we value. He solicited comments and ideas. It was a great presentation and a lively discussion!

John's email address is N4MM@arrl.org, other address details are on Page 10 of the March 10 issue of QST.

John, KI4RO, brought to the meeting a Heathkit HT17 CW transceiver which has been donated to the Club by KB7ZZ. This unit will be placed on loan to a ham who is just starting out with HF privileges.

FARA members please let Neil AB4YK know of someone who needs the use of this Tx/Rx and the club will make the appropriate arrangements. KB7ZZ has generously agreed to maintain the unit so that it continues to be a valuable operating asset of FARA. It's a nice looking radio, and will be a great introduction to HF operation. Many thanks to KB7ZZ.

The club breakfast was also held on Saturday the 29th of March. The breakfast has been "packed" lately with lots of folks showing up to swap stories and share the meal. Sometimes an impromptu tailgate swap meet even develops! Join us for the next one!

Check out our club web page: <http://www.mnsinc.com/ki4ro/fara.htm>. John is featuring some neat logging software this month.

73, Mark



Goddard Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Meeting: Third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Goddard Amateur Radio Club station, Soil Conservation Road, Greenbelt, MD, across from the Soil Conservation Road gate of the Goddard Space Flight Center. This road may be accessed from either Route 193, Greenbelt Road, or Powder Mill Road.

Net: Information net is held every Thursday evening at 9:00 p.m. local time. All amateur radio operators are welcomed. Net Control is Don Bennett, W3MIK

Repeater: 146.835 Mhz.

Information: Jim Blackwell, N3KWU, (301) 286-4534; Vikki Gigante-Hueber, KA3PVS, (301) 249-2609.

The Goddard Amateur Radio Club remains very busy this month. In addition to a novice tech training class being given by GARC to DuVal High School Students, with thanks to Hugh O'Donnell, John Klim, John Stolarik, and Carolyn Keydash for teaching, full preparations are underway for field day and annual elections at this time.

Field Day will be at the Goddard Visitor's Center on Soil Conservation Service Road on the NASA base. During the hours from 10-4 on Saturday and Sunday of Field Day weekend, the visitor's center is open to the public and field day will be featured as one of the events that visitor's can come by and look at.

In addition to contesting, GARC members will explain amateur radio to any members of the public that come by. So, come visit! We will be happy to have you. John Baugus will be starting an upgrade class at the Odenton Police Station on Route 170 in Odenton, MD at 3:30 p.m. Sundays beginning on April 20. Come upgrade!

As usual, we are working on getting ready for

the April 3 launch of the Microgravity Lab and SAREX mission followed by the next Mir Docking Mission.

Since these two missions are long ones, we will try to keep the station up as much as possible, but don't count on us being up during the entire wake times the astronauts are awake. This merits a word of explanation. When shuttle retransmission first started, there were only four or five missions a year and they were usually five or six days in duration.

With our pool of operators, it was fairly easy to keep the station up and operational any time the astronauts were awake. Now, we have the same number of volunteer operators but much more frequent and longer missions.

Therefore, we can only cover the times that our thinly spread operators can be there. So, if we are down during any part of a mission, that is why. We obviously need more help or fewer missions.

Since fewer missions are not to be, more help is the answer. We are trying to get a training session put together. Watch this page for further details if you would like to help out! In the meanwhile, thanks for your patience. We will be up on the air as much as we can!

Happy Mother's Day!

Vikki, KA3PVS



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Green Mountain Repeater Association

Meetings: Board of Directors, Last Monday of each month.

Repeaters: KD3VR-146.61 (Cheverly), K3GXF-146.88 (Greenbelt).

Luncheon: First Saturday of each month at the Fountain Cafe, in the Laurel Shopping Center Mall, US Route 1 (Baltimore Ave.) and Cherry Lane. Starts at 11:30 AM. Monitor 146.88 for Talk-In.

Nets: Old Gents Net meets on 146.88 each day at 9:30 A.M. and 6:30 P.M. Washington Adventist Amateur Radio Association Net meets on 146.88 each Thursday at 9:30 P.M.

Mail: P.O. Box 523, Bowie, MD 20718-0523.

Information: John Williams, N5SJZ, (301) 805-5761.

MARCH LUNCHEON - A SELLOUT! - Braving torrential rains, mist and wind, over 50 club and family members attended the GMRA March luncheon at the Laurel Mall Eatery Pavilion. This social get together is gaining in popularity, so please join us if you haven't already. Get to meet the people you have been talking to on the repeaters; it tends to cement relationships and that is nothing but a plus for you and the Association. The 1st Saturday of each month at 1130.

INTERNET AND THE REPEATERS - Interfacing of the repeaters to the internet took place on March 1, 2 and 16th. Voice connections to amateurs around the world were made. Tests will continue on a scheduled basis until a decision is made by the Board of Directors on it's value to the membership. So if you have not tried it, please do so and then let your Directors know if you want it retained or not. Your opinion is important!

ON THE AIR - HF THAT IS - Our youngest member, N3TJU, Samson, (age 14), purchased his first HF transceiver; a "mint" Kenwood TS-530S.

On Sunday, March 9th, a center fed dipole for 40/20/15 meters was constructed and erected by KD3VR Joe, K3BEQ Murray and Samson. Samson made his first HF phone contact with an amateur in Texas on 20 meters followed by many CW contacts later. On March 14th he made his first DX contact with France. ARRL DXCC Award (100 countries needed) here we come!

AND STILL MORE HF - Ironically, on the same day, N3SNU, Bill, made his "first" CW HF contact with a station in New York state on 80 meters running 2 WATTS out to a dipole up 20'. Next step is to construct and install a ladder line triband dipole for other bands. One of Bill's goals was to check into the Maryland Slow Speed CW traffic network which he successfully did on March 14th. Congrats Bill.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING - The Feb. and Mar. Board of Director's meeting was held at the residence of W3RYQ, Don and KD3VR, Joe respectively. As usual their hospitality was impeccable. (Feb): Don is our new Treasurer and has acquired software and hardware necessary to continue the excellent work of former Treasurer, N5SJZ, John. The Technical Committee is being updated by Joe and both repeater sites will be revisited for preventative maintenance and fine tuning of the new repeaters. Additionally, spare parts will be acquired and stocked for future use. Thanks to N3NGA Roy, for a nice technical update presentation in the absence of KD3VR Joe, who was out of town. (Mar): Discussions took place concerning (1) the possible acquisition of new controllers and (2) developing the necessary hardware/circuits to reactivate the talking S meters. It was additionally decided to sell the old repeaters now that the new repeaters are functioning properly. A big thank you to Ms. Vicki-Gigante Huber for an excellent presentation on the current status of the RACES/ARES program. The Board selected N3LFL, HD as GMRA representative to the program.

FORMER GMRA MEMBER LAUDED - Congrats to former GMRA member KA3DBN,

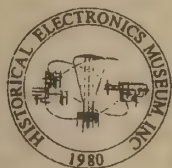
John Rouse for receiving proclamations from Maryland Gov. Parris Glendening, The Maryland House of Delegates, The Prince George's County Council and County Executive Wayne Curry for 25 years as Editor and General Manager of the Bowie Blade - News. John is an avid DXer and Internet surfer and is also the newly appointed ARRL Public Information Coordinator for the MDC Section. John was one of our earliest GMRA members and FAR representative.

CONGRATS TO OLDEST MEMBER - Congratulations to K3GIU, Drummy on the celebration of his 90th birthday on March 24th. Drummy is very active as NCS on The Old Gent's Net seven days a week on the 88 repeater. He additionally attends quite regularly, the monthly GMRA luncheons and one week after being rushed to the hospital, (nothing serious), he attended the Vienna hamfest! When asked what his doctors had to say, he informed me that they have all passed on. So much for old age and the rocking chair. Here's to 100 Drummy.

That's all folks.

73 de Kenny N3HLY &

Murray K3BEQ (Asst Scribe)



Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: Second Wednesday of each month, 5:30 PM, In the Historical Electronics Museum, West Nursery Road and Elkridge Landing Roads. Linthicum, Maryland (Next to BWI Marriott Hotel).

Net: Monday 8:00 PM, 146.67(-)/224.24(-) MHz (courtesy of BARC).

Club Station: W3GR.

Info: Herman Turner, WK3P (410) 647-4178.

Mail: P.O. Box 746, Mail Stop 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203.

Street address: 1745 W. Nursery Rd., Linthicum, MD 21090.

The March 1997 Meeting

HEMARC welcomes two new members: Al Lind, K3VRS and John Arnrehk. Al Lind, K3VRS has already volunteered to be the W3GR station manager.

The new W3GR operating position has been installed in the museum. This fine work by Dean Bush, K3KHG is very much appreciated by the museum and the HEMARC membership. Well Done.

Heru Wamsley, W3WVV and Ray Robley, KD3KK reported that the hands on/Elmering training class is now well along. Next week the layout and construction of an 80M QRP vacuum tube CW transmitter will begin.

Field day planning is beginning and one of this year's goals is to increase participation in all areas of set up, operating, tear down and paperwork. Three committees are being planned to broaden the burdens of leadership.

A discussion of the new attempt of the commercial little LEO lobby to gobble up the 13M band by bypassing the normal requirements for technical study, increases our concern for the future of our hobby. A long and strong initiative via the ARRL's leadership seems to be the most reasonable approach.

Mike Nauman, N3XHJ representing the Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club briefly outlined the activities of this interesting club and met with several HEMARC members to arrange for its members to visit the Museum during their national convention this June 12-14.

Technical Session

Doris Slye, N3TGB gave a very effective presentation on the "10-10 International Net." The history of the organization was given as well as considerable information about the local chapters. Big sunspot numbers or small, this is a very active

and fascinating facet of ham radio. The presentation was appreciated by HEMARC. Thanks Doris.

73 de Chip, W4PBG



Laurel Amateur Radio Club

A Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

Meetings: 4th Wednesday of each month (except November & December) 7:30pm at 384 Main Street, Laurel Md.

Social: 2nd Wednesday of each month, except December (Call for directions).

Nets: 1st & 3rd & 5th Wednesdays, 8:30pm, on 147.225+, no tone.

Mail: P. O. Box 3039, Laurel, MD 20709-0039

Exams: 3rd Saturday of each month, to pre-register contact: John/WB3GXW (301) 572-5124 after 6 P.M.

Information: Mark/N3NTQ (301) 572-2385 or Roger/W3LM (301) 776-6961.

Web Site: <http://www.webtrek.com/~laurel/org/larc>. E-mail: laurel@webtrek.com

The Laurel Club was pleased to welcome Chris Imlay/W3KD back as our guest speaker at our March meeting. Chris is general counsel to the ARRL and it has been several years since we've had the pleasure of having him visit with us to bring us up to date on several aspects of the amateur service that are near and dear to us. Chris is an entertaining and informative speaker and works on a daily basis with many of the problems facing the amateur radio community. He covered such topics as the Little LEO problem, the upcoming WARC's in 1997 and 1999, covenants and restrictions vs PBR-1, and also had a general question and answer period. At the end of the presentation, Mark/N3NTQ our president, presented Chris with his official Laurel Amateur Radio Club hat.

We mailed out several hundred invitations to local hams to come to our meeting and I counted

about 13 new faces. We picked up some new members and also had some who had been members years ago rejoin. All in all, I think it was a successful venture.

The great thing about living in the Washington, DC area is the wealth of talent a club can draw on for speakers. Just think about the great speakers you've had to your club meetings over the years versus what it must be like for a club in East Overshoe, Kansas.

The April meeting will be of interest to those of us (and you readers who wish to attend) who live with antenna restrictions. We will have a show and tell on stealth antennas given by our technowizards Kevin/W3DAD and Russ/N3AUQ.

We will also be reviewing our plans for two of our major public service events coming up the first two weekends in May. Namely, the Montpelier Festival and the Main Street Festival and Parade. While these events provide us an opportunity to practice directed net operation, they also give us a chance to have a lot of fun. Our club participates in many of these type events during the year.

Our Field Day operation is shaping up to be one of the best ever, with special attention being given to inviting scouts and school kids to stop by and get some hands on hamming experience with packet, HF, satellites, and so forth. We'll have more about this in future issues as things firm up.

73 de Jim/WI3N

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The Maryland Apple Dumpling Radio Amateur Society, Inc.

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Thursdays - 7:00 P.M.
NBC Building - WKYS Conference Room,
4001 Nebraska Avenue, Washington, DC.

Nets: 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 9:00 P.M. on
145.45 MHz (PL-5A).

Repeaters: 444.100/449.100 MHz (PL-2A),
145.45/144.85 MHz (PL-5A).

WWW Address: <http://mvhsl.mbhs.edu/~fwright/MADRAS.html>

Mailing: P. O. Box 2468, Wheaton, MD 20902

Information: Larry Ziecheck - N3GKZ (301) 984-6113, Jean Blacik N3PLC (301) 984-6113.

Several of our club members are busily checking out all the suggestions submitted for places and events to celebrate our next "Special Event". We have sent letters off requesting permission to operate from the various sites selected. As soon as we receive confirmation that we can go ahead with our plans we will inform you on the dates and times. We are hoping to schedule one event in midsummer and one in fall.

MADRAS wants to say thank you to Leo Boberschmidt - KA3TGY, for the "Getting Started in VXF" presentation he gave the club on March 13th. The program included repeaters, packet radio, ATV, satellites, etc. Thanks to the many members who were present at the meeting and for all the questions they asked during the discussion period.

Lenny Schacter - N3RPQ, who is the club representative to FAR (Foundation for Amateur Radio), spoke at our March 27th meetings. He filled us in on the events that took place at the last FAR meeting and how the clubs in the area can assist this organization. FAR, as you know, contributes not only to the scholarships available, but to many of the emergency services in connection with amateur radio. Each club has a vote on all the issues

that come up during the year, that is if your club has joined FAR, and you attend at least two meetings during the year. Thanks, Lenny, for keeping us informed on what FAR is doing for the amateur radio community.

We appreciate your patience while the 145.45 repeater was having some major problems during part of March and April. We hope that all of this is now behind us and we are back to business as usual. It sure played havoc with our Thursday night non-meeting net.

We would like to thank John Queen - KAØSEY, Editor of Auto-Call, his staff and contributors, for the excellent job they are doing keeping us all informed as to what's happening in the amateur radio community. There are so many changes happening in our little circle; one of them being the restructuring of the U.S. amateur radio licensing, plus many more too numerous to mention.

Auto-Call has been right on top of everything and sees that every issue gives us a detailed version as to what is happening. I know that many of our members, as well as myself, eagerly look forward to each and every issue. Keep up the good work, you are most appreciated.

[Thanks for your kind words. But remember, Auto Call wouldn't be Auto Call without dedicated clubs such as MADRAS who volunteer their time writing articles and club columns for this magazine. - Ed.]

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The Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: First Friday of each month at the AA Co. EOC, Crownsville State Hospital grounds Crownsville, Md.

Repeaters: WA3PJQ - 146.805 & 449.125 both in Millersville, Md. W3VPR - 442.3 in Annapolis - Joint usage AARC.

Social Breakfasts: 15 days (3 Saturdays) after club mtg, at Rick's Cafe in Odenton at 9 AM.

Mailing: MMARC, P.O. Box 935, Severn, Md. 21144

Nets: 2-Meter on 146.805 @20:30 local time every Monday, 10-Meter CW practice net @19:00 Monday on 28.230 MHz.

Information: Brian Fitzpatrick, N3QXW (President). Bill Ziegler KA6TYT (410) 987-2384.

Greetings to all from the Mobileers!

I will let John/N3BTM tell you about one of the Club's upcoming Special Events!! 1997 USS Torsk Special Event Operation: May 17th, Armed Forces Day. Since 1982 the Maryland Mobileers have celebrated Armed Forces Day by operating a special event station from "down below" aboard the USS Torsk submarine in Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

This year will be no different. Some of you have no doubt heard about the sub going into dry dock for some repairs. It was taken in on February 28th and I'm told the work is expected to take about four weeks. Even if the repairs take a little longer than expected she should still be available for our event on May 17. Once the ship is back in place, in early April, I want to get a party of two or three of us together to go down and size up things to see if there are any changes that need to be made to our set up configuration.

The plan is to run the usual 2 H-F and one VHF stations. We will have the club's rig for one of the

H-F stations. I am still in need of a second H-F rig to fill out the team. I have a 40m dipole for one antenna. I would like to have a vertical to put on the bow for 20m. Verticals work extremely well using the ship's hull as one of the best ground planes to be found anywhere! One year we even used a mag mounted antenna while operating top side. You just can't whip a whip on all that metal!

And of course you will want to be there. We will start out in mobileer style with breakfast FOOD. And after FOOD we will go downtown and set up. The FOOD we will have eaten will give us plenty of energy to work the huge pile-ups, working up our appetite for more FOOD for lunch. (I would like to add this is not a blatant attempt at subliminal marketing. This is just blatant!) And besides all that its just plain fun talking with all the visitors. Every year we seem to meet a few people that stand out. From retired submariners to fellow hams on vacation.

So if you want to work some H-F pile ups, and like to press the flesh with the public while showing off amateur radio, this is the event for you. To become a '97 crew member catch me on the repeater or drop me a land line. See you down below!

73, John/N3BTM

Next Ken/N3OPI will let everyone know What, Where, When, Why and Who!!!

What: Field Day. Field Day is a emergency preparedness contest sponsored by the A.R.R.L. (American Radio Relay League).

When: June 28 & 29, 1997 @ 18:00 UTC on Saturday to 2100 UTC on Sunday 2:00 Pm Saturday to 5:00 Pm Sunday our time.

Where: John H. Downs Memorial Park Of Anne Arundel Co. in Pasadena, Md.

Why: To learn. For camaraderie, To help fellow Hams learn. (Everyone has the ability to teach, Everyone can learn something from someone else.) For the FUN of it.

Who: All United States & Canadian Hams (Locally, everyone is welcome to come & See what we do, & can even participate.) I hope to see you there!

73's, Ken Purdy/N3OPI
MMARC - Field Day Coordinator

If you are interested in joining/helping out with either one of the above events, give me a call. Both events are fun to participate in and also very educational. You don't have to be any "HF" Expert to participate, so join the fun!

That's it for this month. Please note our club meeting, breakfast and net times. We would be happy to meet you and share some good "Ham Stories"!! Don't Hesitate to use our repeater if you are in our area.

73, Bill, KA6TYT



The Mid-Atlantic DX and Repeater Association

Meetings: Second Thursday of each month, rotating locations among Hagerstown MD, Frederick MD, Martinsburg WV and Greencastle PA.

Net: Tuesday evenings at 1930 local on 147.06.

4 State10M net: Wednesdays at 2000 local on 28.315.

Repeaters: Frederick MD: 147.06, 224.20, 448.125; Martinsburg WV: 147.345.

Mailing: 230 North Potomac St., Suite 2A, Hagerstown MD 21740

Information: Voice BBS 301-416-8447 (info Box 112). LandLine BBS (301) 416-8435

Did you get a chance to join us for the March dinner meeting at Cozy Restaurant, Thurmont? If not, you shoulda. Great place to stuff yourself. Another chance: April's meeting will be Thursday

April 10 at the Mt Airy Brewing Company at 7 PM (as usual).

It will be a chance to rest up from all the volunteer work we hope to talk you into doing during March, April and months to follow. For one thing, we're adding strength to our VE effort. The session you just missed was scheduled for Saturday, March 15, at the 1st Baptist Church (Dill Ave @ Bentz St), Frederick (10 AM). April's will be Saturday, April 19, but be sure to pre-register & be sure to arrive at 9:30.

This is an ARRL VEC test session and pre-registration is requested. E-Mail to <veteam@aol.com> or call our voice BBS at 301-473-4151 box 103. Leave your full name, callsign, and what elements that you want to take. It would help if you could leave your phone number, too.

If you're General Class or higher, we'd sure like to add you to the VE Team roster. Send e-mail if you're available to the VE address or to <madrclub@aol.com> and we'll find someone to help you qualify and schedule you in for some exam sessions.

Damascus Race Announcement - May 3 1997
- This year's Damascus Duathlon will be held on Saturday, May 3, 1997. Bill, N2CF, is organizing the communications. Details on the race itself can be found on a link from our web site. We will need over 20 hams to provide communications as well as run the demonstration booth.

ATV Test For The "Duathlon" a Success! - We tested ATV equipment to use at the Damascus Duathlon in February. Bob, N3TXB, and Curt, KE3VM, traveled the course and set up a yagi on a 10 foot pole at several spots. Their transmitter ran two watts to an amplifier running about 30 watts. At net control we got great pictures!

Brunswick MD has asked us to sponsor SwetFest97! As in the past two years it will be in downtown Brunswick. The target date is Sunday, July 20. Downtown merchants and the museums

have agreed to be open and we're working with the Brunswick Special Events Officer to add other attractions for your non-Ham family members who would otherwise stay home.

If you can't make it to the April meeting in Damascus, don't forget that May's meeting will be in Frederick at Red, Hot & Blue.

73 DE N2CSQ/3



Montgomery Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m., Executive Office Bldg, Montgomery Co. Govt Center, 101 Monroe St, Rockville. Park in underground lot G-2.

Repeaters: 146.955 (-600) & 442.750 (PL 156.7) in Rockville.

Club Net: Every Sunday night at 7:30 PM, on the MARC repeater.

Internet: <http://www.dsport.com/marc/>

Mail: MARC, P.O. Box 611, Gaithersburg, MD 20884-0611

Information: Jeff - KZ3F (301) 258-0112

Training: Ms. Rocky Jones (301) 216-5210

Whew! It's hard to believe, but 30 years goes by a lot faster than one might imagine. That's right, the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club has just celebrated its 30th anniversary. A lot has happened since the time when a small group of hams gathered together at a now long forgotten sandwich shop. They never imagined that they would be founding one of the Washington area's largest and most active full-service clubs.

There have been many traditions that have come about over the years; traditions that have caused the club to be known as "The Friendly Radio Club." We owe a debt of gratitude to those individuals who gave birth to the MARC Club, and

to those who continue to better our hobby through Public Service, special events, education programs and an ever growing passion for Amateur Radio. We look forward to our next 30 years. Happy anniversary MARC Club.

During the next few months, our efforts are focused on getting on the air. There is a tremendous effort afoot to get together small groups to participate in the upcoming VHF/UHF Sprints and the June ARRL VHF Contest.

After these great warm-up events, it's on to Field Day. Howard, W3CQH, will be at the helm this year with a new site and a new winning strategy in mind. We did great last year, but CQH has vowed to make this our best effort ever. Howard needs your help, so contact him ASAP.

Kudos to Rocky KC4UXO and Peggy N3PPG and all of the volunteer instructors who made this Spring's General Upgrade Class possible. Our April VE session (conducted by the Laurel VEC) was a huge success. We all look forward to working our graduates on the HF bands.

We now have a full roster of net control operators for our Sunday Night Net. They include Stan W3INK, Howard W3CQH, Jeff N3TOP, Ron KR4EL, Patrick N3MIT, Tom AA3AC, Todd N3QFZ, Don N3LHZ and Komkit N3XLW (who also handles Newsline each week). Thanks to all of you for taking the time out of your weekend to make this a truly enjoyable and worthwhile club activity.

Don't forget we have regular news updates via email. Send you submissions to Stan at 3winks@msn.com.

And while you're surfing the net, stop by the newly revised MARC Club homepage at <http://www.dsport.com/marc>. Many thanks to Jeff N3TOP for his many hour of work on this project.

73, Ron N3KQY



Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: Second Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m. (except December) Mt. Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parker's Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308.

Nets: Every Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. Starts on 2 meters then moves to 10 meters on 28.405 MHz.

Repeater: WD4PDP 146.055 input / 146.655 output.

Mailing: Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club(MVARC) c/o Joe Salemi KR4CZ, P.O.Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307.

Information: Chuck W3HSW, 703-660-6623.

WEB Site: <http://www.netcom.com/~jsalemi/mvarc.html>

MVARC's March meeting featured Dr. Robert Cleveland from the FCC. He discussed the hot topic of RF Safety and what it means to amateur radio. Thanks to Dr. Cleveland for an informative talk.

Our George Washington's Birthday Special Event station was located in the green house on the grounds of Mount Vernon, where we've operated for many years. A very hot event in all senses. Boy, was the greenhouse warm. Everyone seemed to enjoy the event.

MVARC's Volunteer Exam sessions have been busy this year. We've examined over 100 people during the first three months of the year. We've been doing exams on a monthly basis for over 50 years. We'll be moving the exams back to the renovated (the roof doesn't leak) Lee District Park starting in April. As usual, 9 AM on the second Saturday of each month. Contact K4EC at (703)455-1510 for info.

Field day planning is beginning. The location

will be the Boy Scout camp on Mason Neck Peninsula - same place as last year. We expect to operate 6a. This year our club picnic will be a separate from field day.

Our web site is getting better and better thanks to Joe KR4CZ. Pictures of a testing session are up on the site, along with much other useful info. Our address is a long one: <http://www.netcom.com/~jsalemi/mvarc.html>

This is Mary, N4TCI, substituting for Chuck, W3HSW, who is recovering from his fun stay at Mount Vernon Hospital.

73 de Mary N4TCI

Mary Morris

email address: n4tci@erols.com



Prince George's Wireless Association

Meetings: First working Tuesday of each month, 7:30 PM; American Red Cross bldg., 6206 Belcrest Rd, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

Club Station: K3CEZ

Mailing: 4109 Kennedy St., Hyattsville, MD 20781

Information: Frank Holton - WA3ZMW
(301) 927-1245

PGWA held it's regular monthly meeting on March 4th, 1997 at the Radio Station, K3CEZ which is located in the P.G. County Red Cross Building in Hyattsville, MD.

Frank, WA3ZMW brought the meeting to order at 8:45 P.M. The usual business was discussed along with Officer reports and announcements of upcoming Hamfests.

Around this time of the year we are usually preparing members to be prepared for an upcoming SET. A simulated Emergency Test with the Red

Sometime in May, date to be announced soon, our members will group together to take part in the annual "Crop Walk" to help alleviate hunger throughout the world.

Of course, as every year, we are looking toward "Field Day" exercise. This year we hope to accomplish more than preceding years.

After the meeting adjourned a video tape was shown about the Code breakers of World War I and World War II and the sophisticated code machines that were used.

73s Ken Easton N3HLY



Quarter Century Wireless Assn. Chapter #91

Meetings: Neighbor's Restaurant, Cedar Lane and Park Street, Vienna, VA; third Saturdays; Noon. Business/Program Meetings: Odd-numbered months. (Come at 11:30 to chat; program begins at noon.) Informal/Ragchew Meetings: Even-numbered months.

Newsletter: Bi-monthly to all members.

Information: Dick Rucker (KM4ML), Secretary; 10426 Darby St., Fairfax, VA 22030-3603; 703-591-3279. Also on the VHF net.

VHF FM Net: Sunday 9 AM, 146.79MHz.

March 1997 Meeting — The main speaker for this meeting was Bernie Stuecker (K4XY) from the Northern Virginia Radio Control Club (NVRC). Bernie was introduced by NVRC member Bob Plamondon (WN2AME), who, along with Bill Cann (WB4PUH) and Larry Parfitt (KS4KW), assisted Bernie. Phil Schroeder (KF4AJZ) and Luther Hux (N4BZQ) also brought models for display.

Bernie and crew had us "eating out of their hands" as they described and demonstrated many

facets of R/C aircraft. One of the interesting topics was a comparison between "back in the days of heavy batteries and peanut tubes" and today's IC technology.

Bernie discussed the various frequency bands allocated for R/C hobbyists. These include a Ham-only six-meter allocation, and the two license-free bands at 72 MHz (airplanes) and 75 MHz (surface models). He commented that the FCC placed pager frequencies between the R/C channels "just to keep us on our toes!" He described NVRC's safeguards to assure that no two flyers use the same frequency simultaneously (a recipe for sure disaster!), but commented that with 50 channels on 72 Mhz and 10 channels on 50 Mhz, there are few conflicts—"everybody flies!"

Bernie discussed the modulation and encoding/decoding modes used, and the improvements made to receivers and transmitters to accommodate the new technologies. Modes used are AM, FM, PCM, (Pulse Code Modulation), and PPM (Pulse Position Modulation). He noted that AM rarely is manufactured anymore.

Bernie talked about the various kinds of R/C flying, noting that pylon racing is a particularly good spectator sport. He then asked the other NVRC members to display and describe their craft. Bob had his sport/acrobatic plane; Bill, his built-from scratch semi-scale model bi-plane with a 53-inch wing span and powered by a chain-saw motor; and Larry, his standard "1/2 A" pylon racer.

Bernie issued an invitation to visit the NVRC field in Arcola at any time, commenting that there almost always is someone there. He also passed out copies of "Feedback," the club's newsletter for which Bernie is the Editor.

Bernie and company's excellent presentation was preceded by a delightful remembrance from Brad Flippin (K6HPR), who told about the time his dad, as a college student, operated a spark gap rig occasionally from his bunk in the TKE fraternity house. One night, in order to keep the noise from bothering others, he operated from under the covers

and set fire to his mattress! Brad handed out copies of "Youthful Remembrances of Amateur Radio as told by my dad Alva Woodson Flippin, ex-W7QL."

Auction — Vice President Al Wheeler (WB4JJJ) conducted the not-to-be-missed auction and related events. These brought in \$27.00 for the chapter.

This meeting was attended by 34 members and guests, including QCWA National President Jack Kelleher (W4ZC), his wife, Margaret, and Margaret's son Richard Jacobson and grandson Max Jacobson. Richard and Max specifically made the trip here from Pennsylvania to attend the R/C demo.

President Frank Haynes (W4NUA) opened the meeting and passed the gavel to VP Al, who asked each member and guest to give a self-introduction and describe his/her main preoccupation in Amateur radio. Some very intriguing topics were mentioned, for example, guest Bob Plamondon's (WN2AME) deep involvement with high-speed CW.

Chapter Reports — Secretary Dick Rucker's (KM4ML) minutes of the previous business meeting were distributed and approved. Dick also distributed copies of a list of chapter members and friends.

Vice President Al noted that our May meeting will be a special one at which we will honor our Silent Keys and present some of our members with awards; some will be serious, and some will be, well . . . come and see.

ar 73 de Jim, W3WV



Reminder - all submissions for
AUTO CALL
are due no later than
the 1st of the month prior to the
month of publication!!



Quarter Century Wireless Assn. Shenandoah Valley Chapter #137

Meetings: Third Wednesday of odd-numbered months, at 12:30 PM; Carper's Valley Golf Club, 1401 Millwood Pike (Route 50 East), Winchester, VA; reservations suggested.

Information: Perry F. Crabill, Jr., W3HQX; (540) 662-7526.

Mailing Address: 225 Milam Drive, Winchester, VA, 22602.

E-mail: pcrabill.visuallink.com

Twelve members and guests of QCWA Chapter No. 137 met at Carper's Valley Golf Club on Route 50 east of Winchester, Virginia on Wednesday, March 19, 1997. A social period at 12:30 PM was followed by a buffet luncheon at 1 o'clock. The meeting was conducted by President Charles Anderson, NF3X.

Secretary/Treasurer Perry-Crabill, W3HQX, read the minutes of the last meeting, which was held on November 20, 1996; the meeting scheduled for January 15, 1997 was canceled because of weather.

ARRL Roanoke Division Director John Kanode, N4MM, discussed highlights of the ARRL Board meeting held in January. The League is proposing a restructuring of FCC Rules for the Amateur Service, and is looking for comments.

The present structure is not allowing for growth: also, the FCC is planning to look at the Amateur Service in the Fall. The US is the only country with six amateur license classes.

The "Little Leo" satellite threat to amateur frequencies is penned up for now. ARRL dues will be raised in July, and a five-year membership will be made available.

"Sparky" Terry, KD4KL, reported that Guatemala was planning to usurp the 420-450 MHz band for business use, and pointed out that this could seriously impact amateur satellite operations. ARRL is working via the IARU and the national amateur society in Guatemala to deal with this.

Howard Miller, W4KXE, complained about recent interference from European broadcast stations on 40 meters. John said that this is of long standing; only 7.000-7.100 MHz is exclusively amateur worldwide. The matter is under study, and it has been suggested that the amateur band be made 6.900-7.200 MHz. In addition, other frequencies are under study for new bands.

Charlie said that we need to think about a single contact between the Chapter and the Widow's Assistance Program for FAR. We also need a Program Committee chairman, and he is looking for volunteers for both jobs.

Perry Crabill presented a program about utility radio listening, which involves signals that are not in the broadcast nor amateur category. These are found on short, medium and long wave frequencies, and can be CW, voice or digital. Many amateur HF transceivers have a general coverage receiving capability, and can tune in these frequencies.

Radio clubs, monthly magazines, and listener's newsletters are dedicated to the hobby, along with information on the INTERNET. Lists of stations are available from a number of sources.

Examples of Utility Radio include the Maritime Mobile Service, the Aeronautical Mobile Service, time signals, government and military communications, press and facsimile transmissions, "numbers" stations (believed to be spy broadcasts), nondirectional beacons between 190 and 530 kHz, "Lowfers" on the 1750 meter band, and long range navigational systems.

After discussing each of these subjects, Perry told about his special interest in logging nondirectional beacons. To date he has heard 1256

aero and marine beacons. Although most of these are in the US and Canada, others are in Central America, the Caribbean, and South America. His best beacon DX is Hao Atoll, in French Oceania, with Easter Island a close second.

Perry next talked about receiving utility signals. He had set up a display of receivers from his collection, which included the Drake R-8, Icom R-71A, Kenwood R-2000, and Kenwood R-5000. The display also featured such auxiliary equipment as the TimeWave DSP-59+ audio filter, the JPS ANC-4 Antenna Noise Canceller, Arcomm AP-4 Active Antenna/Preselector, Lowe PR-150 Preselector, and Grove TUN-3 Minituner.

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 PM, with the announcement that the next meeting will be held on May 21, 1997, at Carper's Valley Golf Club.

Perry Crabill, W3HQX
Secretary/Treasurer



Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: First and Third Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. SVARC Club House 2921 Grace Street, Winchester, Virginia.

Repeater: 146.22 In/ 146.82 Out.

Net: Shenandoah Valley Emergency Net (SVEN) 7:15 daily on 146.22/146.82 Repeater.

Mailing: P.O. Box 139 Winchester, 22604.

President: Fred Wetzel (W4KRT).

Info: Irvin Barb, W4DHU, 955-1745.

Internet home page: <http://www.w3ic.com/inet/svarc>.

The members of the SVARC are getting ready for the 47th Annual Winchester Hamfest and Computer Show to be held Sunday, August 3, 1997 at the Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds in Berryville, VA. Irv, W4DHU is this years chairman [540-955-1745]. Check out our web site at <http://www.w3ic.com/inet/svarc/hamfest> for more

information.

On Tuesday nights at the club house we have been building packet stations for the Winchester Police Department and the Frederick County Sheriffs Department. These packet stations will be installed and will be used in case of an emergency by club members.

The SVARC will again be helping with the Apple Blossom 10k Race to be held on Saturday May 3rd at 9:00 am just before the Grand Feature Parade.

73, Wayne KE4PMS



Southern Maryland Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 2nd Friday of each month at 1930 ET at the PG County Police, Clinton Station, 6707 Groveton Drive, Clinton, Maryland.

Nets: Tuesday at 2000 on 147.15+ Repeater; Wednesday at 2000 on 1.865 (+/-QRM); Thursday at 2000 on 28.447 USB.

Repeater: WA3YUV/R 147.15+, Brandywine, Md. Autopatch to 911.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 273, Cheltenham, Md, 20623

Information: Vic (WA3YUV) & Linda (KA3VNI), (301) 888-1388.

Internet: <http://www.iscanit.com/smarc>

Now that the good weather is finally here to stay (let's hope so), it's time to get that outside antenna work started. The wind and rain of the past few weeks has taken its toll. I'm trying to figure out how to get this G5RV up in the trees behind me. Any suggestions are welcome.

Speaking of that nasty weather of the past few weeks, everyone who uses the repeater know that

something has happened to the antenna system. The system output is down and it doesn't seem to be able to hear as well as it use to (it couldn't be old age!).

Anyway, the repeater committee have been looking into the problem and have made the recommendation to acquire a new antenna.

Hopefully by this time a new StationMaster antenna will be up. Mike, N3RWF, has been really challenged at work these days and has tried to slip in the task of climbing that huge tower, hanging precariously on the mounting arm to install the new antenna.

We are certainly luckily to have folks like Mike and the rest of the antenna crew since they are doing what a lot of us wouldn't!! Thanks guys, we all appreciate it.

Put on your calendar our meeting dates. The gang has had some interesting things going on. You wouldn't believe some of the things that the members brought in to the last meeting for "show and tell".

One of the most interesting points you find is that there is a wealth of talent and knowledge in the membership. Just listen one afternoon when Jerry, N3BSI, gets on and relates some of his experiences.

Or ask Richard, WK3I, about working DX. They are all absolutely fascinating. And it goes on from there, all you have to do is start talking with the folks and you will be pleasantly surprised.

And that is the big news from southern Maryland. Don't forget to join us for the monthly eyeball meeting at the Police Station. Now that the tax refunds are coming in, it's time to plan that new rig (of course the XYL will agree). After I get out of the hospital for that comment, we will see you again next month.

73, Greg - WA3FSC



The Middle Atlantic FM and Repeater Council, Inc.

Meetings: Coordinating Committee (CC) normally meets the last Monday of each month, 19:30, in the OEP conference room of the Prince George's County Emergency Operations Center off Central Avenue. Talk-in on 147.18.

Address: P.O. Box 1022, Savage, Md. 20763-1022 for all correspondence.

Web Page: [HTTP://WWW.T-MARC.ORG](http://WWW.T-MARC.ORG).

Information: President - Owen Wormser K6LEW (703)684-7682 CC Chairman - Bill Conaway W8HNT, Pager (703)741-4251. Ombudsman - Jim Erickson K3LFO (410)549-1041, K3LFO@APEXGRP.COM.

Simplex. It works! Yes, talking on VHF simplex (i.e., without using a repeater) can work very well - in fact, much better than many people would guess. Typical mobile-to-mobile range, using the average 25 Watt mobile radio on 2 Meters, is easily five miles or more - up to 25 miles if both cars are on higher ground. With H-T's on both ends, ranges of up to five miles are not unheard of, under the right conditions.

Those of you who have experienced simplex operation at public events, and on localized emergency sites, know how well simplex can work. The rest of you who spend all of your time on repeaters should give simplex a try. There are some people who only operate on the recognized simplex frequencies - some even refuse to use repeaters! They consistently talk from their base stations to

other hams 50 to 100 miles away on a regular basis!

Of course a good, high, antenna helps. I know of one mobile station that runs a 2.5 Watt transceiver on 2 Meters into a 1/4-wave ground-plane antenna, which can reliably talk to stations up to 150 miles away on simplex. The only advantage he has is that his antenna is high off the ground (I know - it's the rig in my airplane!)

The point is, with just a little effort, you don't have to use a repeater to be able to get out. All it takes is decent antennas and a reasonable amount of transmit power. Actually, there are a couple of circumstances where some people consider it to be a crime to use a repeater - that's where two mobiles are within line-of-sight to each other, or where a mobile is not very far from a fixed station. We should all strive to build our stations up to the point that we don't have to rely on someone else's repeater to be able to get out. We should all have good, reliable, simplex capability, so that if the repeaters go down (parish the thought), we can still communicate via simplex.

Coordination-wise, KA3BTD's 53.17 repeater is now in full operation at its re-coordinated location in Brightseat, Md., east of D.C., and the Southern Md. ARC's 147.15 WA3YUV/R is fully operational at its new home in Brandywine, Md. Several new UHF links were coordinated for one of the D.C.-area's 440 repeater systems.

Finally, I want to express my sadness at the passing of Ethel Smith, K4LMB. I knew Ethel - she was a true lady. Amateur Radio has lost much. We shall miss her.

73, Gary, W3DTN, T-MARC PIO



...submissions are due the 1st day of the month prior to the month of publication.
Submit all Club Columns, Shack Sales, and commercial advertising copy to:

John Queen, Editor, Auto Call Magazine
755 Woodland Way, Owings, MD 20736

TO THE FRIENDS OF ETHEL SMITH, K4LMB

As Executive Editor of Auto-Call for the past 10 years, I got to know Ethel quite well.

One of the most notable of her many strengths was her intense fondness and loyalty to the many national organizations to which she belonged. At one time or another, she was on the governing board of almost all of them. Locally, she was a long time friend of clubs like the Washington Mobile Radio Club.

One of the organizations she helped structure, and of which she was extremely fond, was the FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO. She was Corresponding Secretary for many years. She also edited *AUTO-CALL* for nearly 20 years. That's amazing dedication. Since Ethel did not want any fuss at her death, the Foundation wants to offer her many *AUTO-CALL* friends an opportunity to remember her in a way that would please her. At the same time, it would introduce more Washington area hams to the magazine she loved.

For the next 90 days, we invite our readers to give a gift subscription to a friend in remembrance of ETHEL SMITH. In the *AUTO-CALL* issue following the 90 day window, we will publish the names and calls of all those who gave a gift subscription, using the form ON THIS PAGE, to a non-subscriber. Thank you for remembering one of the best friends the "Amateur Radio Service" has ever had.

Gratefully, Tony Young, WA3YLO



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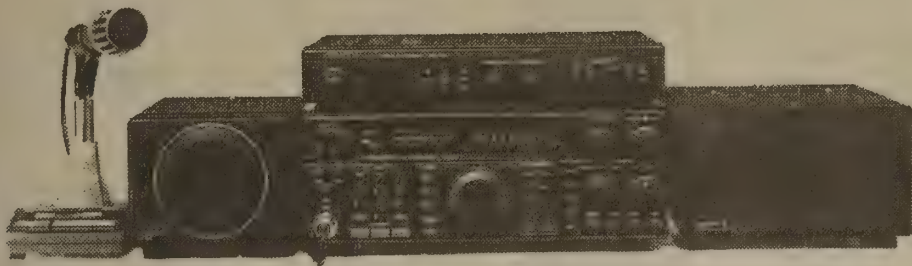
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(301) 855-0198

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FOR SALE: Last chance: Ten-Tec Titan linear amp export model \$1350, Mirage A-1015 6 meter amp/preamp 10W in 150W out \$175, Ampire 146OS 2m GaAs FET Preamp for OSCAR \$95, RF Concepts 4-310 430-450 MHz amp/preamp 30W in 100 out, Yaesu FT-757 MKII Xcvr with FP-757HD Power Supply \$650; 2M and 440 MHZ cubicle quads both for \$20; Sig, WA9INK, signer@erols.com, work/voicemail (703) 875-5183, QTH (202) 467-0053 fax on line- hold for voice pickup. [05/97]

ESTATE SALE: Kenwood XCVR TS-180S w/ PS-30 and Kenwood Ant Tuner AT-180 Kenwood VHF XCVR TR-7800 w/Mike and RS-12M PS. Dentron Linear Amplifier Clipperton Model. Cushcraft Beam Antenna Model A-4 4 El Yagi NEW in Box. Butternut HF Vertical Antenna - NEW in Box. Misc parts. Call Pam Hennessy at (703) 451-6577 or John at (703) 536-9537. [05/97]

FOR SALE: Ham Radio magazines. All 23 years in binders. \$150 PU or plus UPS. Also quad parts-fiberglass arms, mounts, etc. \$100. Bob K4JN (703) 560-7161. [05/97]

FOR SALE: Bird Wattmeter, Model 43 with 3 slugs; 25 W and 100 W for 100-250 MHZ and 500 W for 2-30 MHZ. Very nice condition with N connectors and S0239 adapters. \$275. Bernie, W3CAO (301) 271-2714 anytime. Thurmont, MD.

FOR SALE: Home in Greenbelt, MD. + ham tower. 60 ft. Rohn SSV, self supporting tower installed to commercial specifications. Mosley 67B six-band beam installed on top and a Hy-Gain Tailtwister rotor. 4 br 2 bath brick home in immaculate condition. No extra charge for ham

tower. Call Phyllis Newman (Re/Max Professionals) 1-800-435-9001. Priced in the mid 100's. [04/97]

FOR SALE: Optoelectronics UTC3000 counter timer 10 Hz to 2.4 GHz TCXO \$200.00. Pete W3ZE (703) 938-2820. [04/97]

FOR SALE: Ham Radio magazines complete years for 1982, 83, 85, 86, 87, and 88. No July 1984. \$15.00. Ringo Ranger 2M antenna, \$20.00. Mirage B108 80 watt 2 meter power amplifier, \$75.00. Bernie Cohen, W3CAO at (301) 271-2714 in Thurmont, MD. [04/97]

FOR SALE: HP handheld multimeter model E2373A, 4-digit & analog display, \$45.00. HP AC-vacuum tube voltmeter model 400A with spare tubes, \$25.00. HP attenuator set model 350A, \$20.00. All test equipment in good to excellent condition and include operating manuals. ARRL antenna book, \$10.00. Various manuals & cookbooks e.g., TTL, IC-OP AMP, CMOS, etc. \$1.00 each. Richard Wallace, K3TND, (301) 384-6366. [04/97]

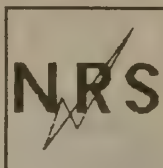
FOR SALE: Ten-Tec Titan 425 amplifier, 10-160 meters. New, never used. \$2500. Bill Poole, W4VAD, (540) 373-7283, jwp@flstarweb.com. [03/97]

WANTED: Apple I microcomputer for museum, KK4WW. (540) 231-6478 / 763-2321. [06/97]

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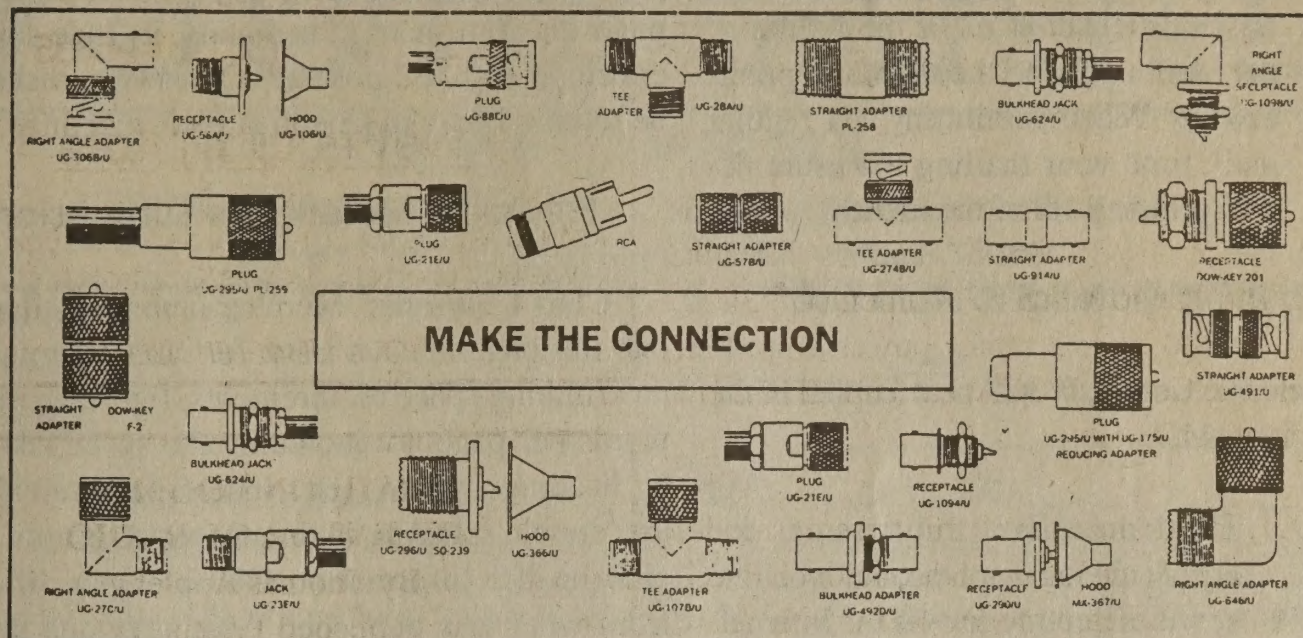
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[SWP]

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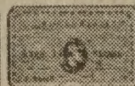
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Submissions for *Auto Call* will be accepted in the following formats:



Electronically: Submissions are accepted via any of the major on line services directly or over the Internet. Use the format exactly as follows:

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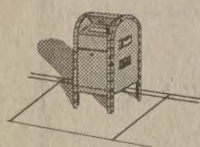
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MCI Mail - mbx: johnqueen@aol.com

Prodigy - johnqueen@aol.com



Regular Mail: Mail typewritten or computer generated hard copy to: John Queen, Editor, *Auto Call* Magazine, 755 Woodland Way, Owings, MD 20736. Ensure that your printed material is dark enough for scanning.



Computer Disk: Submissions are accepted on 3.5" or 5.25" computer disk, in either Macintosh or MS-DOS format, using Word, WordPerfect, or standard ASCII text files. Write your name, telephone number, and club name on the disk. Submit graphic files (club logos, etc) in an EPS or TIFF format. Please verify the readability of your com-

puter files before sending. If you want your computer disk returned immediately, include a SASE envelope with .32 postage. Otherwise, disks will be returned only in person at FAR meetings.

Preparing Material for Submission

Club Columns: Member clubs are allocated one full page in each issue for club columns. In determining space requirements, figure about 700 words per page not including the space taken up by headings, photos, etc. Indent paragraphs .25" and double space to begin a new paragraph. Send club header information **ONLY** when different from what was published from previous month. The editor reserves the right to edit any submitted material for space, content and/or applicability.

Hamfests/Events: Member clubs are allocated one full page per year to promote one club sponsored hamfest, convention, or special event. Submit clean black & white camera ready copy only by mail. Master copy should be in black ink on white paper and should be in proper page ratio, (Copy space is 7" wide by 9" high). Copy can be reduced or enlarged as necessary. Electronic submissions of Hamfest ads will not be accepted.

Photographs: The editor will select the best photograph submitted for the cover each month. Photographs should depict club members, club stations, or amateur radio related events that are current and noteworthy. Clubs may also submit photographs for inclusion with their club column. Photographs will be used in columns when space permits. Either B&W or color photos can be used. For each photograph submitted, write your name, phone number, and club name, along with a description of the photograph on a piece of paper, and tape it on the back of the photograph. Do not write on the back of your photo. If you want your photos returned immediately, include a SASE envelope with sufficient postage. Otherwise, photos will be returned only in person at FAR meetings.



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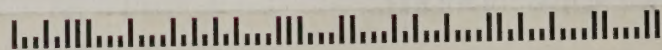
Area Club Meetings - May 1997

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1 Antietam PGWA	2 BARC Montgomery	1 Anne Arundel	2 Mobileers Shenandoah	3 Green Mtn.
4	5 DOSARC	6 Leisure Fauquier Frederick Woodbridge	7 FAR - VA HEMARC Exp Post	8 MADRAS Mid-Atlantic Mt. Vernon	9 VOA Vienna So. Maryland Alexandria	10 North Point
11	12 Carroll Co.	13 Antietam Arlington	14 BARC/QCWA Montgomery Goddard	15 Anne Arundel	16 Shenandoah	17 Capital City QCWA 91
18	19 OVHA Sterling Park	20 Columbia	21 Laurel Exp Post Moose	22 MADRAS St. Mary's	23 Central MD Vienna	24
25 Adventist	26 Green Mtn. T-MARC	27	28 Carroll Co.	29	30	31



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